



**Tuesday 3 October 2006**

## **Medicine and Care of the Dying Important new publication**

Palliative Care Australia (PCA) is pleased to join with Oxford University Press to launch the new publication, *Medicine and Care of the Dying: A modern history*.

Public commentary often suggests that the measure of a nation's values lies in how a society cares for its dying citizens.

It is therefore timely that an examination of the evolution of modern medicine in relation to the care of the dying is made, and the valuable insights from this work are shared.

Dr Milton Lewis, Historian of Medicine in the School of Public Health at the University of Sydney, and author of the publication, examines the relationship between the approach of Western medicine to the care of the dying and its changing social, cultural, demographic, economic and political context over the last two centuries in five Anglo-Saxon countries: the United Kingdom, the United States, Australia, Canada, and New Zealand.

The publication includes chapters addressing:

- The Religious and the Medical
- The Rise of Modern Medicine
- Cancer and Medicine in Historical Perspective
- Development of Palliative Care Services
- Development of Pain Control
- Medicine and Euthanasia.

“This publication has articulated for the first time how the evolution in public policies has contributed to the development of palliative care services. Understanding our past greatly informs our understanding of our future. We welcome this great contribution,” said Professor Margaret O'Connor, President of Palliative Care Australia.

The launch will be conducted on October 5, during a key national event for palliative care in Australia – the Australian and New Zealand Society of Palliative Medicine Conference.

The publication is available through Oxford University Press at <http://au.oup.com>. For further information on the launch, please contact PCA on 02 6232 4433.

### **Launch details**

**Date:** Thursday 5 October 2006

**Time:** 3pm

**Venue:** Harbourview Convention Centre  
Queens Wharf - 150 Wharf Road  
Newcastle NSW