

**Palliative Care Australia**

# Media Release



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Australia**

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## **“Thank you for the care” World Hospice and Palliative Care Day Saturday 8 October 2006**

Palliative Care Australia (PCA) is pleased to join with over 75 countries in a unified day of action to celebrate and support palliative care around the world.

Now in its second year, World Hospice and Palliative Care Day 2006, with the theme “*Access to care for all*” – highlights the fact that everyone has a right to high quality end of life care but more needs to be done to ensure it is available to all who need it.

World Hospice and Palliative Care Day is a time for celebrating the successes in palliative care – achieved through the extraordinary work of the doctors, nurses, allied health professionals and volunteers who each day care for people living with a terminal illness, their families, carers and communities.

In Australia, approximately 64,000 people each year live with a terminal illness. We take time on this day to recognise these people and to thank all those involved in providing this specialised care.

“In Australia, care of the dying is increasingly being recognised as a specialised area in health care, and as a whole of community matter,” said Professor Margaret O’Connor, PCA President.

“Our challenge is to work to ensure all Australians have timely access to quality palliative care because the value is greatest when care is accessed sooner rather than later.”

“Australia plays a leading role in sharing our skills and knowledge with countries, particularly in the Asia Pacific - an area of work I am keen to foster further,” said Professor O’Connor.

### **The aims of World Hospice and Palliative Care Day 2006**

- share our vision to increase the availability palliative care throughout the world by creating opportunities to speak out about the issues
- raise awareness and understanding of the needs – medical, social, practical, spiritual – of people living with terminal diagnosis and their families
- raise funds to support and develop palliative care services around the world

For further information: [www.pallcare.org.au](http://www.pallcare.org.au)

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