

# MEDIA RELEASE



**Palliative  
Care  
Australia**

## Palliative Care Australia

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21 September 2009

## Dying well - together we can do better

### International conference in Perth

#### Together! 2009 – Cultural connections for quality care at the end of life

This week, more than 1250 delegates from 38 countries will meet in Perth for four days to share evidence and advancements in caring for people at the end of life.

‘Today, we cannot in good faith, promise that all people at the end of their lives will always have access to care that meets their preferences and reliably delivers good pain and symptom control’, said Conference Co-Chair and President of Palliative Care Australia, Professor Margaret O’Connor AM.

‘Whilst great advances have been made in the delivery of quality specialist palliative care, in general, health and other care services do not always perform well for people who are dying. We need to get it right to ensure people receive the care they need when they need it.

‘Coming together to share our knowledge and expertise is a crucial element in improving the care we provide to people at the end of life, their families and carers.’

*Together! 2009* is an historic event, combining the 10<sup>th</sup> Australian Palliative Care Conference and the 8<sup>th</sup> Asia Pacific Hospice conference, providing an unprecedented opportunity for collaboration and information exchange.

‘Our region is rich in knowledge and expertise in the delivery of quality care at the end of life, care that is provided by dedicated professionals in a range of contexts, across cultures and resourced to different levels. Whilst there is great diversity, what we all have in common is a desire to deliver the best care possible at the end of life, care that meets the needs of patients, families and carers.

‘Over the past twenty years, the biennial Australian Palliative Care Conference has evolved from a focussed scientific program to a broader offering, recognising palliative and end-of-life care is everyone’s business.

‘This year we embrace carers and volunteers, address all prognoses, encompass primary care and allied health, and recognise the emerging evidence around non-clinical areas of practice.’

### Key speakers

Dr Stephen Connor – USA – National Hospice & Palliative Care Organization  
Dr Bee Wee – UK – Oxford University Medical School  
Professor Sheila Payne – UK – International Observatory on End of Life Care  
Dr M R Rajagopal – India – SUT Academy of Medical Sciences  
Dr Elizabeth Gwyther – South Africa – Hospice Palliative Care Association of South Africa  
Professor Rod McLeod – New Zealand – University of Auckland  
Dr Bernadette Tobin – Australia – Plunkett Centre for Ethics  
Dr Reena George – India – Christian Medical College  
Ms Liese Groot-Alberts – New Zealand – Grief therapist

**24-27 September 2009 - Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre**

### Photo and interview opportunities available

[www.palliativecare.org.au](http://www.palliativecare.org.au)

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*PCA is the peak national organisation representing the interests and aspirations of all who share the ideal of quality care at the end of life*

Patron: Her Excellency Ms Quentin Bryce AC  
Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia