

MEDIA RELEASE



**Palliative
Care
Australia**

Palliative Care Australia

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Palliative care standards used by services for planning

Seventy-six percent of palliative care services use the Palliative Care Australia *Standards for providing quality palliative care for all Australians* as a framework for service planning or development, according to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.

National palliative care performance indicators: Results of the 2008 performance indicator data collection is the fourth in a series of surveys that measure performance against four national palliative care performance indicators: strategic planning, standards, feedback, and partnerships.

The report also shows almost sixty percent of services surveyed use the PCA national standards as a framework for quality activities.

Palliative Care Australia CEO Dr Yvonne Luxford said: 'While there is some concern across the four indicators, it is important to note the data was collected before the full implementation of the National Standards Assessment Program (NSAP) and the Palliative Care Outcomes Collaboration (PCOC).'

'These two national quality improvement programs will make a significant contribution to the delivery of palliative care in Australia, providing the means by which services can assess and improve the quality of care they deliver.'

'Aged care in particular remains an area of huge deficit in the provision of quality care at the end of life. Funding models for the provision of care do not adequately recognise the growing complexity of care required by residents in aged care homes. This is stretching workforce capacity to manage effectively and safely the care required by residents who spend their last months, if not days, in aged care homes. Palliative Care Australia will be actively contributing to the Productivity Commission's Caring for Older Australians inquiry.'

'Palliative Care Australia also hopes to see the provision of quality care at the end of life for all as a key focus in the policy platforms of all parties in the upcoming federal election.'

The AIHW report is available at www.aihw.gov.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