



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **A WELCOME COMMITMENT TO PALLIATIVE CARE**

Professor David Currow, President of Palliative Care Australia, today applauded the decision by the Federal Government to continue the funding to further develop palliative care services in Australia.

The renewed commitment of \$62.8M over 4 years is evidence of the increasing support for palliative care in Australia.

"We welcome this ongoing commitment to funding palliative care services in Australia. This decision most importantly means that the 64, 000 Australians that live each year with a life limiting illness will continue to have improved access to quality palliative care for themselves, their family and carers," said Professor Currow.

This funding will continue to allow for expansion for critical work on the six priority areas of Palliative Care Australia.

- ❑ Better access to medicines
- ❑ Support for Families and the community
- ❑ Building the workforce
- ❑ Models of care across the country
- ❑ Building the evidence
- ❑ Research - building and using information

The budget announcement comes at a particularly important time for Palliative Care Australia, with National Palliative Care Week 2006 commencing on Sunday May 21.

This year's theme for the week, "Partners in Care" highlights the many different people and organisations, which play a role in caring for a person with a life-limiting illness. Palliative Care Australia is partnering with Carers Australia and the Australian Divisions of General Practice for this year's event.

"The Federal Government has showed us today, their commitment in providing these services," Mr Currow continued. "However, the congratulations and recognition must go to the hundreds of doctors, nurses, allied health professionals, carers and volunteers that each day work tirelessly to provide this specialised care.

Palliative Care Australia is the peak national body representing the Palliative Care.

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