



# Media Release

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## Budget wishes for palliative care

Palliative Care Australia (PCA) is calling for national cooperation between governments to better meet Australian's wishes for care at the end of their lives, according to the [Pre-Budget Submission](#) released today.

PCA CEO Liz Callaghan said improved cooperation would reap benefits for patients.

"We envisage a cost and risk sharing arrangement between the Australian Government and the state and territory governments in order to reduce inefficiencies in the health sector, realising savings for all governments while achieving improved outcomes for the patient and their family. "We know that investing in community care, care outside of the hospital setting, can have cost-saving benefits, but more importantly it's where Australians want to die.

"Around 70% of Australians want to die at home, only about 14% of people do so. There may be a variety of reasons for the disparity of those numbers, but we can certainly make it easier for people to die in their place of choice if we invest beyond the hospital setting and ensure other parts of the system are well supported.

"PCA would like to see a greater focus on palliative care in residential aged care facilities, for example, which may result in reduced emergency presentations and bed days," Ms Callaghan said.

Other suggestions in the submission include funding for enhanced resources to support paediatric palliative care and end-of-life care, as well as a focus on increasing the literacy in the community about death and dying.

"The recent debates around death and dying in Australia show there are significant gaps in understanding about dying and palliative care. Too many of us still don't talk about our end of life wishes and even fewer know when and how to access services.

"Palliative care gives those facing a terminal illness the opportunity to live well as they face the end of their life. It recognises individual needs and values and supports families. Australia provides very good palliative care services, but there remain gaps in access and understanding which we believe these measures can address," Ms Callaghan said.

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