

NEWS RELEASE

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ANZSPM welcomes updated National Palliative Care Strategy

The Australian and New Zealand Society of Palliative Medicine (ANZSPM) welcomes the release this week of the updated [National Palliative Care Strategy](#) by the Australian Government Department of Health.

ANZSPM President, Professor Meera Agar, said: “The national strategy is an important acknowledgement of the critical role of palliative care services across Australia supporting people with a life limiting illness. ANZSPM is pleased that the updated strategy demonstrates the combined commitment of the Commonwealth, state and territory governments to working together to ensure equitable palliative care for all people with a life limiting illness as well as their families and carers.”

The strategy sets out a shared direction for palliative care services across Australia having regard to the following six guiding principles:

- Palliative care is person-centred care
- Death is a part of life
- Carers are valued and receive the care they need
- Care is accessible
- Everyone has a role to play in palliative care
- Care is high quality and evidence-based.

Prof Agar said: “ANZSPM supports the goals outlined in the strategy and the guiding principles. There is clear emphasis on the need for a capable and supported workforce and strong evidence base as well as processes that foster collaboration and understanding of palliative care practice across different care settings. Ongoing investment in Palliative Medicine across all levels of government is critical to achieving those goals. ANZSPM looks forward to supporting implementation of the strategy via our membership base. We welcome ongoing consultation to ensure that Australia continues to deliver leading palliative care services and research, with an appropriately skilled and resourced workforce well into the future.”

ANZSPM is a specialty medical society that facilitates professional development for its members and promotes the practice of palliative medicine, in order to improve the quality of care for people with life-limiting illness. Our members are medical practitioners who provide care for people with a life-limiting illness and include palliative medicine specialists, palliative medicine training registrars and other doctors such as general practitioners, oncologists, haematologists, intensivists, psychiatrists and geriatricians.

Ends.

Contact: Simone Carton (CEO) on 0414 454 646 or simone.carton@anzspm.org.au