

Media Release

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Palliative Care WA Inc Welcomes WA Government Commitment to Palliative Care

The President of Palliative Care WA Inc, Dr Scott Blackwell, today welcomed the WA Government's announcement of \$14M over four years to improve palliative care.

The Minister for Health, Dr Kim Hames MLA, made the announcement at the launch of National Palliative Care Week today at the Annual WA Palliative Care Breakfast.

"Providing quality care for all Western Australians at the end of life is core business for the health system in the 21st century. Palliative Care WA Inc, on behalf of people all around the state who are dealing with problems of dying, death and bereavement, is pleased to see the new WA Liberal Government is delivering its election commitment to develop palliative care over the next four years," said Dr Blackwell.

Palliative care improves the quality of life for patients and families who are facing problems associated with terminal illness, by preventing and relieving physical, spiritual, psychological and social suffering. Palliative care services also support a wide range of health care professionals, including GPs, aged care services, and other specialists, to provide quality care for their patients at the end of life.

Dr Blackwell went on to say that "the \$14M will be spent in areas which have been identified by Palliative Care WA Inc as urgent, including improving palliative care for rural people, Aboriginal Western Australians, and children, as well as enhancing coordination of care and workforce training and education."

Dr Blackwell, who is also the Vice President of Palliative Care Australia, said that the funding program will return the state to the forefront of the palliative care movement in Australia. "These meet immediate needs, and are also investments for the future. The health requirements of Australians have changed, the system is gradually responding. We are amongst the leaders in WA," he said.

Dr Blackwell is available for interview on 0409 296 249.