



THE HON JUSTINE ELLIOT MP
Minister for Ageing

MEDIA RELEASE

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More Than \$14 Million for Palliative Care Initiatives

The Minister for Ageing, Mrs Justine Elliot today announced a \$14.4 million package to provide extra services and equipment for palliative care.

Mrs Elliot said that national Palliative Care Week (24-30 May 2009) aims to raise awareness about accessing palliative care services to help Australians at the end stage of life.

The theme of Palliative Care Week this year is *'If only I knew...finding answers to questions that help us live and die the best we can'*.

Palliative care is the specialised care of someone suffering from an advanced terminal illness.

Each year more than 20,000 Australians receive specialist palliative care and more than 500,000 patients, carers, family members or friends are affected.

The new initiatives are:

- \$11 million over two years for local grants to help community groups, aged care providers and charitable organisations provide support to palliative care patients and their families;
- More than \$2.9 million for equipment upgrades and research;
- More than \$500,000 in one-off local grants for 2008-09 for non-government organisations to improve support for patients and their families, and to develop greater local capacity and tailored resources; and
- Updating the National Palliative Care Strategy.

Mrs Elliot said: "Funding these initiatives will help support the patients receiving care and the thousands of dedicated Australians who volunteer and work in palliative care.

"I commend everyone who works in this area for their commitment to delivering quality care" Mrs Elliot said.

"People receiving palliative care and their families are going through one of the most difficult times of their lives and services would not be available without teams of dedicated people delivering high quality care to patients," Mrs Elliot said.

For more information, contact Mrs Elliot's office on 02 6277 7280