

CEO Roundtable for Palliative Care

Communiqué 7



PalliativeCare
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Meeting on Tuesday 27 September 2022 – hosted by Palliative Care WA

At the seventh meeting of the *CEO Roundtable for Palliative Care in WA*, member organisations met with Palliative Care Australia CEO Camilla Rowland, who was visiting Western Australia from Canberra.



Palliative Care WA CEO Lana Glogowski (left) with Palliative Care Australia CEO Camilla Rowland.

Acting Board President Shannon Calvert welcomed Ms Rowland and outlined how the CEO Roundtable on Palliative Care allowed Palliative Care WA (PCWA) to not only hear the issues and assist with sector development but also provide the opportunity to advocate with politicians and sector leaders for the delivery of quality palliative care in WA.

The CEO Roundtable had recently met with State Government Health Minister Amber Jade Sanderson (August 2022), and previously with then State Government Health Minister Roger Cook, and former Australian Government Minister Ken Watt (Aged Care; Indigenous Australians).

Shannon explained that the power of the CEO Roundtable existed at multiple levels – networking, issue identification, and progressing collaborative initiatives across the sector. A significant example was the ‘You only Die Once’ campaign in 2019, conceptualised by the CEO Roundtable, and funded by member organisations, the WA State Government and Lotterywest.

Presentation by Camilla Rowland, CEO, Palliative Care Australia

Palliative Care Australia (PCA) CEO Camilla Rowland spoke about information gaps in palliative care in Australia, the challenges of accessing palliative care in aged care, and what the Palliative Care Australia Roadmap 2022–2027 (Palliative Care Australia’s strategic direction for 2022–2024) and advocacy seek to achieve to meet the challenges of delivering improved quality palliative care across Australia.

A synopsis of Ms Rowland’s presentation follows:

Information gaps

KPMG estimates that palliative care demand in Australia will double by 2040, representing 52 per cent of all deaths. The KPMG report (2021) showed that:

- The need for palliative care was rising rapidly – 30 to 60 per cent increased advised by clinical leaders since the start of COVID-19
- Transparent reporting of palliative care activity ranges from excellent to non-existent.
- Limited understanding of unmet need, and limited ability to conduct evidence-based policy.

The challenges of accessing palliative care in aged care

Many Australians are dying in aged care without adequate access to palliative care. Staff in aged care do not have sufficient skills to deliver palliative care across the aged care sector.

- The Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety found that evidence heard during the life of the Royal Commission showed that too few people receive evidence-based end-of-life and palliative care, and instead experience unnecessary pain or indignity in their final days, weeks, and months.
- The most common areas of substandard complex care the Commissioners heard about throughout the life of the Commission involved dementia and challenging behaviours, mental health, and palliative care.
- The Commission believed that palliative and end-of-life care, like dementia care, should be considered core business for aged care providers.
- The Commission found that while the evidence before them a wide range of concerns about aged care quality and safety, they singled out four concerns for immediate attention: food and nutrition, dementia care, the use of restrictive practices, and palliative care.
- The Royal Commission's Final Report included a number of recommendations to support improved palliative care in aged care and these are in alignment with, and a strong endorsement of the recommendations outline in Palli-8.

Palliative Care Australia Roadmap 2022–2027

The PCA Roadmap sets out the investment and initiatives needed in palliative care over the next five years to ensure that Australians have access to high-quality palliative care when they need it and where they need it.

- Greater investment in dedicated palliative care services across Australia including rural and remote areas
- Making palliative care core business in aged care – a key finding of the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety
- Supporting and growing the palliative care workforce – this includes the specialist palliative care workforce and the workforce in primary care
- Augmenting palliative care data and research
- Providing more support to carers so they can care for their loved ones in the place of their choice
- Fully funding the implementation of the Paediatric Palliative Care National Action Plan
- Investing in palliative care awareness campaigns to raise community awareness about death, dying, bereavement, grief, and palliative care
- Supporting Palliative Care Australia to undertake national palliative care advocacy and sector consultation and provide policy advice through peak body work beyond 30 June 2023.

PCA Strategic Actions for 2022–2024

- **Advocate for increased investment in workforce capacity** and capability building the specialist palliative care workforce, the aged care workforce, and other specialist/primary health care workforce.
- **Collaborate to develop integrated models of care** and increase co-ordination and pathways between Specialist Palliative Care and other specialist/primary health care and aged care.
- **Advocate for the new Aged Care Act**, national policies, and funding instruments to include high quality palliative care in aged care.
- **Collaborate in the development of an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander-led palliative care and end of life care strategy.**
- **Advocate for increased investment in palliative care research** to develop a strong evidence base for palliative care services.
- **Demonstrate global leadership** including a focus to support Pacific neighbours to deliver quality palliative care.

Camilla also spoke about PCA's advocacy with the new Australian Government in which the organisation sought measures in the October 2022 Budget to support the palliative care sector, including:

1. Build on the Government's plan to have Registered Nurses 24/7 in Residential Aged Care ensuring they have essential palliative care skills (\$36 million over four years)
2. Fund a National Palliative Care Workforce Strategy so that Australia can plan for the increasing numbers of people who will need and benefit from palliative care as the population ages and lives with increasing rates of chronic illness (\$2.5 million over two years)
3. Support the palliative care sector (both those in need of palliative care and the palliative care workforce) with a commitment to fund the peak body for palliative care in Australia (\$400,000 per year over three years).

Development of CEO Roundtable on Palliative Care strategic plan

Lana Glogowski canvassed interest by CEO Roundtable on Palliative Care members in jointly developing a strategic plan to clearly identify priorities moving forward. Members indicated an interest in progressing this and a workshop will be scheduled early in the new year to develop a strategy.

Development of forum for operational managers of palliative care services

Lana Glogowski also reported feedback from several members who suggested that while scheduling meetings with CEOs was strategically important, facilitating meetings with palliative care operational managers might be equally important. PCWA undertook to progress this suggestion.

Attendees:

Camilla Rowland, CEO Palliative Care Australia

Shannon Calvert, A/President Palliative Care WA

Andrew Allsop, Director Clinical Operations, Palliative Care, Silverchain Group

Janet Wagland, General Manager Community, Brightwater Care Group

Maria Davison, CEO Melville Cares

Scott Higgins, Chief Performance and Risk Officer, St John WA

Renee de Prazer, Executive Manager Clinical Operations, Bethesda Health Care

Lana Glogowski, CEO Palliative Care WA (Chair)

Apologies:

Prof. Samar Aoun, President Motor Neuron Disease WA; UWA; Perron Institute

Jeffrey Williams, CEO St John of God Bunbury Hospital

Ash Reid, CEO Cancer Council WA

Laura Davids, St John Ambulance WA

Paul Coates, CEO Carers WA

Dr Scott Blackwell, Director Collaborative Healthcare

Michelle Jenkins, CEO Community Vision

Suzanna Robertson, Executive Director Health Consumers' Council

Catherine Stoddart, CEO Brightwater

Ella Dachs, CEO Alzheimer's WA

Wayne Stone, GM Provider Networks HBF