



**Palliative
Care
Foundation**

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MEDIA RELEASE

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Rudd Government takes positive steps to reduce financial pain for Australians with terminal illness

On behalf of Australians and their families, the Rudd Government is to be congratulated for taking steps to reduce their financial pain.

“When living with a terminal illness, it is vitally important that it is easy for people to plan their finances and their family’s future so that they are free to live to the end of their lives as well as possible” said Dr Peter Martin, Chair of the Palliative Care Foundation.

Senator, the Hon Nick Sherry, Minister for Superannuation and Corporate Law announced two measures to work to reduce financial pain for people with terminal illness

Firstly, that the Government will legislate to make superannuation lump sum payments tax free.

Secondly, the Government will introduce a new condition of release for people facing the end of the lives.

The Foundation, supported by principal partner Hillross Financial Services Limited, seeks to improve the delivery of the best possible care at the end of life through supporting one of Australia’s fastest growing fields of specialist medicine –Palliative Care. The aim of palliative care is to relieve pain and symptoms and to maximise quality of life for the patient, their families and carers. The Foundation delivers scholarships targeted to support health professionals and researchers to expand the expertise and evidence behind best practice care.

“We are confident that the Government will implement the approach recommended by Palliative Care Australia and that new legislation will enable people to access their full superannuation easier and faster. This step will make a big difference to people who have no time to waste”, said Dr Martin.

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