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MEDIA RELEASE

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Researchers earn grants for palliative care

Sixteen researchers have received grants to conduct research into palliative-care practices.

The Rudd Government today announced almost \$740,000 in National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) funding.

As the Australian population ages the need for palliative care is increasing in our community.

About 22,000 Australians each year will at some point require specialist palliative care and a conservative estimate is that with patients, families, carers and friends, terminal illness touches about half a million people each year.

The Government has invested in palliative care research, recognising the importance of high-quality, evidence-based data to guide policy directions in health.

The projects these researchers are undertaking deal with important issues and their research is critical in helping to provide people with the type of care they need – and deserve – as they near the end of their lives.

Grants include:

- Dr Barbara Anderson, from the University of South Australia, has received \$50,000 to identify the palliative-care needs of home-based people with end-stage dementia.
- Dr Meera Agar, from Flinders University in Adelaide, has received \$50,000 to conduct a randomised control trial to determine how well common medications control the symptoms of delirium in palliative care.
- Associate Professor Rosalind Bull, University of Tasmania, has received \$43,575 to explore how palliative care is integrated into the care of patients with chronic kidney disease.
- Ms Katrina Recoche, Monash University, has received \$49,916 to study, for the first time in Australia, paramedics across two states to describe their involvement in palliative care.

A full list of recipients and their institutions is at www.nhmrc.gov.au.

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