

**PALLIATIVE CARE ADVISORY GROUP**

*Statement by Minister for Health*

**MR KUCERA** (Yokine - Minister for Health) [9.08 am]: Further to my statement of 27 March 2002 on the palliative care advisory group, I wish to announce the membership of that group. As I mentioned in my earlier statement, the group was established to inform the Department of Health about palliative care issues in our State. This role will include putting a focus on training and support for staff and volunteers, which is especially important in rural areas; ensuring alignment with the national palliative care strategy, released by the Commonwealth in October 2000; and generally providing support to the Labor Government's election commitment to develop quality palliative care services, which has already resulted in the allocation of an additional \$8 million over four years.

I am particularly happy to advise the House that everyone who was invited to become a member of the group has accepted. Twenty-one people will form the group, which includes many well-known palliative care specialists as well as palliative care managers and educators, a social worker, a chaplain, a pharmacist and a consumer representative.

I am pleased to announce that Dr Linda Kristjanson has accepted the position of Chair. Professor Kristjanson occupies the Chair in Palliative Care at Edith Cowan University. She is well known for her expertise and knowledge in this area. The other members of the palliative care advisory group are: Dr Scott Blackwell, Dr Joy Brann, Dr Doug Bridge, Mr Steve Carmody, Dr Phil Claringbold, Dr Andrew Dean, Mr Clive Deverall, Ms Ruth Foley, Ms Michele Kosky, Reverend Terry McAuliffe, Ms Sue McKechnie, Ms Ellen Nightingale, Dr Marianne Phillips, Dr Sarah Pickstock, Ms Eleanor Roderick, Dr David Thorne, Ms Penny Tuffin, Ms Helen Walker, Ms Donna Wilson and Associate Professor Kate White. I am extremely confident that these eminent people will bring to the advisory group a broad mix of palliative care expertise and consumer advocacy.

The advisory group held its first meeting on Thursday 6 June 2002, which I understand was extremely productive. I certainly look forward to and welcome the involvement of the palliative care advisory group in the development of palliative care services in this State. I believe that this group will play a vital role in ensuring that Western Australians who are dying have appropriate access to the services they need.

I recently visited two of the respite units, one at Albany and one at Mt Barker, and I congratulate them on the standard of care exhibited in those country areas. This advisory group will add to that.