

10 July 2020

Mr David Graham
Committee Clerk
Joint Select Committee on Palliative Care in Western Australia
Legislative Council

Dear Mr Graham,

St John of God Health Care (**SJGHC**) is one of Western Australia's principal providers of end of life care to the community. Our palliative care services provide support to patients with life-limiting illnesses through all stages of their illness, up to and including the end of life period. Ensuring that every person in the community has the right to access safe, high quality care, especially at the end of life, is one of the most significant ways in which a community conveys its respect for human life. SJGHC is committed to providing high quality palliative care services to West Australian communities as outlined in the SJGHC Strategy (2020-2022).

SJGHC supports the Terms of Reference (**TOR**) outlined by the Joint Select Committee on Palliative Care in Western Australia (**JSCWA**). However, SJGHC notes that the following items should be included in the report prepared by the JSCWA and are not currently specified in the TOR:

1. Access to care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities
 - a. The TOR will report on the delivery of palliative care into regional and remote areas but does not specify on the delivery of care to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities. These communities often have difficulty accessing palliative care services. The JSCWA should ensure it reports on the provision of palliative services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in regional, remote areas and the Perth metropolitan area.
2. A review of demand and service provision in the Perth Metropolitan area
 - a. SJGHC notes that existing inpatient palliative care services across Perth are regularly at capacity with many patients being inappropriately managed in the community or aged care settings that are unable to care for deteriorating patients.
3. That an opportunity for community and service provider consultation be included on the TOR



SJGHC is thankful for the opportunity to provide feedback on the TOR and looks forward to working with the JSCWA.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Rob Wise'.

Rob Wise
Group Director Strategy