

The Shire of Chittering is an example of the disparity in provision of palliative care between Metro & Rural areas. Lower Chittering, 6084, is served by the Metro based Silver Chain Palliative Care service, which provides an excellent comprehensive service, daily if required. The Northern part of Chittering, 6052, is covered by the WACHS Palliative Care team from Northam who can only provide 1 or 2 visits a week, & telephone support, probably due to lack of staff or resources, but although I tried to contact them for an explanation, I could not get any information.

It is extremely difficult, time consuming & frustrating trying to obtain additional services, such as personal care or home help, for palliative care patients, even more so for <65 year old patients. All patients should have access to an excellent palliative care service.

As Bindoon & Gingin do not have a hospital, only a GP surgery in each town, but are only less than 90 kms from the CBD, patients should be able to access comprehensive, high quality palliative care, enabling them to stay in familiar surroundings with their families should that be their choice for end of life care.

It is worth noting that until a few years ago, Silver Chain nursing staff delivered palliative care to ALL the residents of Gingin & Chittering to a high standard, and to the great satisfaction of patients & their families.

Thank you.