

Ms A. Sanderson, MLA
Chair, Joint Select Committee on End of Life Choices
Parliament House
4 Harvest Terrace
West Perth WA 6005

Dear Ms Sanderson

I profusely apologise for the delay in responding to you and hope that these ideas can still be considered.

In relation to conclusion 4 of our previous response on pages 10 and 11, we suggested the following: 'PCWA can assist the committee in suggesting novel models to improve access to palliative care'.

The "novel models" we were referring to are outlined in more detail below.

Co-design workshops

Consider co-design workshop with palliative care consumers (including carers) and care providers to determine what people with palliative care needs actually need, and how best to deliver care and education. PCWA could assist in recruiting and facilitating this action.

Compassionate Communities

Progressing the Compassionate Communities model (with reference to the Guardian article <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2018/feb/21/town-cure-illness-community-frome-somerset-isolation>)

Shared Care Models

Consider shared care models, where a palliative approach is introduced early in the course of life-limiting illness. At present, most specialist palliative care relies on referral from another doctor, which usually happens too late in the disease process to have optimal benefit to the patient in terms of end of life choices. This is despite growing evidence that access to palliative care early in the course of many life-limiting illnesses can improve quality of life and reduce aggressive treatments without shortening life. Some novel shared care models, which introduce a palliative approach early in the course of life-limiting illness (rather than waiting for a referral), include the following that were all presented in sessions at the 2017 Australian Palliative Care Conference:

- "Kidney Supportive Care" model in Prince Charles Hospital, Brisbane (including people receiving dialysis as well as those electing conservative management), Dr Carol Douglas;

- Palliative care for COPD model from Professor Jennifer Philip, University of Melbourne (<https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/palliative-and-supportive-care/article/conceptual-model-redesigning-how-we-provide-palliative-care-for-patients-with-chronic-obstructive-pulmonary-disease/F9216912F482829ADA8D9FF2CEDE250B>)
- Palliative care nurse practitioners embedded in aged care facilities, from Peter Jenkins, Nurse Practitioner, Resthaven Inc, Adelaide

Increasing the capacity of Silver Chain

Increase the capacity of the Silver Chain Hospice Care Service model of care to more people with non-malignant life-limiting illness including frailty and dementia, working alongside existing aged care and disability providers

Increasing the capacity of existing outpatient clinics

Increase the capacity of existing outpatient clinics to facilitate Advance Care Planning sessions. This could be delivered in a group setting initially and offered to patients with chronic/life-limiting illness e.g. geriatric medicine, respiratory, renal, oncology, and neurology.

Increase Telehealth

Increase the availability and flexibility of Telehealth for people from rural/regional areas and in metro, to consult with the palliative care multidisciplinary team (and not just doctors) at tertiary centres. This could speed up decision making processes by engaging the local family/community decision makers directly and allow family meetings/case conferences. This could potentially reduce inappropriate transfers to metropolitan hospitals, improve/make decision making and in a more timely way and also improve bereavement outcomes for patients/families of patients dying away from country. This could include inpatients at Perth hospitals (inpatients being a group where Telehealth is under-utilised) for family meetings, planning, grief and bereavement.

Again I apologise for the delay in responding to your request and would be keen to meet to provide further detail on the above if this would be helpful.

Kindest regards

Lana Glogowski
Executive Officer
15 May, 2018