

PATS SUBMISSION FOR ENQUIRY

WRITTEN BY PAULA PUGH SCHIPP

PRESENTED BY HER LIVE-IN NIECE AND HELPER ELIZABETH MARY HARROLD

PATS is a life-saving facility for the people of Carnarvon, indeed for ALL country patients, who are so grossly dis-enfranchised through geographical isolation. It's one of those things you may not realise until it happens to you. My husband and I have to travel to Perth every first and second Tuesday to be given a half hour chemo-therapy treatment, then return to Carnarvon each Wednesday. I am far too weak to make the journey alone. Can you imagine feeling violently ill yet willing to go through this truly harrowing two-day experience simply because there is no alternative if you want to stay alive? All of us have worked all of our lives, paying taxes in the hope and belief that if we ever needed help in return it would be forthcoming. When I was first diagnosed with cancer my husband gave up work to be my full time carer for what time I have left, so we are living on our savings. Over 100 people in Carnarvon are facing this, as we speak, needing to travel to Geraldton or Perth, none of whom could possibly hope to self-fund this medical issue.

I am just one voice amongst many.

PAULA V. PUGH SCHIPP - CARNARVON