



Your Ref: 20171219 – LTR – QON – WA Health – Hays.pdf
Our Ref:

Dr Jeannine Purdy
Principal Research Officer
Joint Select Committee on End of Life Choices
Parliament House
PERTH WA 6000

Dear Dr Purdy,

QUESTIONS FROM PUBLIC HEARING

I write in relation to your letter of 20 December 2017 in which you requested a response to two questions that were not answered due to time constraints.

Please find below the responses to the two questions directed to me:

1. Does the Department have data on access to palliative care by residents in residential aged care facilities?

Response: The WA Department of Health (the Department) does not have data on access to palliative care by residents in residential aged care facilities. The Australian Government has responsibility for aged care nationally, including residential aged care in WA, and should be approached for a response to this question.

2. Do you think that their access to palliative care is sub-optimal?

Response: The Department is unable to answer this question. The Australian Government should be approached to provide a response as the level of government responsible for residential aged care nationally. While the Department does not have information about the adequacy of access to palliative care by residents in residential aged care facilities, the Department has developed and funded services to support residents accessing specialist care, including palliative care, and minimise the risk of residents presenting to a hospital Emergency Department. These include the Metropolitan Palliative Care Consultancy Service (MPaCCS). MPaCCS provides specialist palliative care to residents of aged care, correctional, disability and mental health facilities, who are identified and referred by the team caring for the resident in these facilities. The Department does have data on access to MPaCCS, which does not represent the total amount of palliative care delivered to residents of these facilities. In 2016-17, MPaCCS delivered 6,518 Service Events over 925 Episodes of Care, 856 of which were to residents of an aged care facility.

I hope that this answers the Committee's questions. Please let me know if further information is required.

Yours sincerely

~~Luke Hays~~
A/MANAGER
PURCHASING AND CONTRACTING

21 December 2017