

Dianne Christian

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From: Lorna McConnachie [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 18 July 2012 7:40 PM
To: Health and Community Services Committee
Subject: Submission to parliamentary committee - inquiry into palliative care services and home and community care

Sub # 2

I am a home care worker (Toowong). I joined Queensland Health in 1999.

I undertook a Certificate III in Aged Care (2000), a Diploma in Community Services (2004) and a Certificate IV in Allied Health, all at Southbank Institute of Technical and Further Studies

My observation is it is far more beneficial to keep people in their own home in the interests of their own health as well as being a lower cost to the state.

The capacity and future needs of services cannot be estimated as it is an unpredictable science reflecting the fact that every person is an individual and a person's health follows an unpredictable pattern.

I find the present services the Queensland government provides, in the home and community care area, is woeful. It is only a domestic cleaning service. Only 1 1/2 hours is allocated to clean a house or unit and this may include bed making, washing, ironing and cleaning fridges. The duration between services is 14 days. This does meet some client's needs, while you may find a daughter who is not working living at the same address. At the same time others may have no children close by.

I believe Queensland is the only state where the client does not pay for this government service. Peter Beattie was going to hand the present service over to Blue Care.

Private entities perform a service only to make a profit. Otherwise they would cease to exist unlike governments whose aim is the opposite. If all the services were joined and directed, then long hospital stays would be reduced, clients would be assisted to leave hospitals sooner and the need to move to nursing homes would be reduced.

Yours sincerely
Lorna McConnachie

