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File Ref:

Health and Community Services Committee  
Parliament House  
George Street  
BRISBANE QLD 4000  
Via email: [hcsc@parliament.qld.gov.au](mailto:hcsc@parliament.qld.gov.au)

Dear Health and Community Services Committee

Thank you for this opportunity to provide feedback to the Palliative Care Services and Home and Community Care Services Inquiry. The Palliative Care Clinical Sub-Network of Queensland Health's Statewide General Medicine Clinical Network has developed a response for submission to this inquiry. The Queensland Clinical Senate (QCS) is supportive of this group's response, which encapsulates the following key themes/recommendations to improve the provision of Palliative Care in Queensland:

- Develop a Queensland Palliative Care Strategy to align with the National Palliative Care Strategy
- Develop an End of Life (EoL) Care Strategy for Queensland
- Develop a strategy and service planning benchmarks for a skilled, sustainable workforce
- Commission the Centre for Palliative Care Research and Education to conduct a study into determining population-based palliative care needs across Queensland
- Develop Service Planning Benchmarks for Palliative Care beds.
- Utilise service planning, purchasing agreements or other mechanisms to:
  - ensure Hospital and Health Services provide high quality EoL care
  - promote Palliative Care Services as significant players in the last 12 months of a patient's life
  - fund hospice beds with adequate nursing cover in the last 12 weeks of life for patients who cannot be managed at home
  - ensure Palliative Care for all Queenslanders incorporating need, quality and outcomes measurement
  - improve patient flow from acute to subacute, or directly to community setting
  - streamline assessment processes to decrease delays for younger patients (<65 years)

- Fund the establishment of the Palliative Care Clinical Sub-Network as a statewide clinical network in its own right to engage high level clinician support to, amongst other things, integrate care across Queensland in the setting of the patient's choice around the clock.
- Fund Palliative Care Services to build capacity for high quality EoL care amongst generalists and non-palliative care specialist providers in hospital and community.
- Key points specific to Paediatric Palliative Care Service (PPCS):
  - develop a 24 hour statewide telephone support service for non-cancer patients
  - continue sub-acute funding to Children's Health Queensland beyond July 2014
  - support ongoing involvement in specific quality activities
  - integrate the pastoral care position into the service and multidisciplinary team of the PCCS
  - utilise a managed network to enhance service provision in regional areas
  - Increase the capacity and sustainability of the PPCS by doubling key positions such as Staff Specialist, Nurse Practitioner and Bereavement Co-ordinator.

We thank you again for this opportunity to provide feedback on this important issue. Should you require further information, please contact Melleesa Cowie, Manager, QCS Secretariat, via ph: 3646 9782 or via email: [qldclinicalsenate@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:qldclinicalsenate@health.qld.gov.au) .

Yours sincerely



Dr Bill Glasson

**Chair**

**Queensland Clinical Senate**

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