

HCHC.

Sub # 75.


THORNESIDE QLD 4158

10 August 2012

Mr Peter Dowling MP
Member for Redlands
PO Box 3667
VICTORIA POINT WEST QLD 4165



Dear Mr Dowling

I have only recently become aware of an inquiry into palliative care services, home and community services in Queensland of which you are the chair.

I understand that submissions have now closed, but I would like to raise a few points for your consideration.

Nurses have a vital role in health service delivery and are well placed to span the continuum of care, with their practice based on a holistic approach.

There is a real opportunity in the current reform environment for nurse led models of care, inclusive of nurse specialists that could deliver seamless services including pain management, rehabilitation, disability services and alternative care delivery models including hospital in the home.


Since early 2011, there has been a sharp rise in the number of private nurse practitioner services in Queensland. These private services have been predominantly in the aged care and palliative care sector.

The attractiveness of opportunities in the private sector for nurse practitioners has been limited by the Medicare Benefits Schedule item numbers.

There are currently a number of services in Queensland participating in the Department of Health and Ageing, Nurse Practitioner Aged care Models of Practice Program aimed at expanding the role of the nurse practitioner in residential and community based care. There is also a well established palliative care service in your area provided by Metro South, which is inclusive of nurse practitioners.

I appreciate you considering the contribution of nurses and would be happy to discuss these opportunities with you.

Yours sincerely


Amanda Davies
Nurse Practitioner