

**CURRENT AND FUTURE PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE SOUTH-WEST SYDNEY
GROWTH REGION**

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS

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Palliative Care

QUESTION 1

Are the matters of the provision of palliative care and palliative care services in South-West Sydney formally dealt with at meetings of Health System Strategy and Planning, NSW Health?

- a. If so, what has been discussed and what decisions have been made regarding these matters?

ANSWER

The NSW Ministry of Health, through the Health System Strategy and Planning Division, liaises with the South Western Sydney Local Health District on the implementation of Government priorities for end of life and palliative care and related funding commitments. This includes regular engagement with the Palliative Care Service Development Officer Group, which has a representative from every local health district. The District also engages with other areas of the NSW Ministry of Health on an ongoing basis in relation to service delivery, planning and performance matters, as required.

QUESTION 2

Are you aware of any scoping or planning work that has been undertaken regarding the future needs of palliative care and palliative care services in South-West Sydney?

- a. If so, who undertook the work?
- b. When was the work undertaken?
- c. What is the name/title of the work?
- d. Has the work been publicly released?

ANSWER

A range of planning work has been undertaken regarding the future needs of palliative care and palliative care services in south west Sydney. This includes:

1. The Advance Care Planning, End of Life and Palliative Care Strategic Plan SWSLHD 2016-2021

- a) The Plan was developed by the District in collaboration with the Palliative Care Service and a steering committee with representation from a broad range of stakeholders, including consumer representation and an executive sponsor.
- b) The Plan was developed in 2014-15 and launched in 2016.
- c) Advance Care Planning, End of Life and Palliative Care Strategic Plan SWSLHD 2016-2021.
- d) The Plan is available on the District website. Published copies were also distributed widely including to the South Western Sydney Primary Health Network, Aboriginal Medical Services, community partners and other local health districts.

2. SWSLHD Strategic Cancer Plan 2018-23

- a) The Plan was developed by the District in collaboration with the District Director Cancer Services and a dedicated steering committee, complete with consumer representation and an executive sponsor.
- b) The Plan was developed in 2017-18 and launched in 2018.
- c) The SWSLHD Strategic Cancer Plan 2018-23.
- d) The Plan is available on the District website, the Cancer Services internet page and the NSW Cancer Institute website. Hard copies of the Plan were also distributed widely.

3. District Clinical Services Planning

The future development of palliative care services in south west Sydney will address the needs for a range of care settings to meet the multidisciplinary care needs of the community.

Existing inpatient palliative care services are located in the Macarthur region at Camden and Campbelltown Hospitals, Liverpool Hospital and Braeside Hospital. Future planning will outline opportunities to enhance the provision of inpatient palliative care capacity across the district (including Bankstown-Lidcombe Hospital, Liverpool Hospital and Bowral and District Hospital) and community based palliative care services. Collaboration with not for profit organisations will also be considered in the planning process.

Planning for the future needs of palliative care services has been considered as part of the District's redevelopment projects, including:

Liverpool Health and Academic Precinct Project

The future provision of palliative care services has been considered as part of the \$740 million Liverpool Health and Academic Precinct (LHAP) project. The project has been led by the LHAP project team consisting of the District and Health Infrastructure NSW, along with Liverpool Hospital executive in collaboration with clinicians, subject matter experts and members of the community.

The Palliative Care Project User Group is well established and currently finalising designs for the Palliative Care Inpatient Unit.

New Bankstown-Lidcombe Hospital Planning

In March 2019, the NSW Government announced a \$1.3 billion redevelopment of Bankstown-Lidcombe Hospital. The redeveloped hospital will include expanded and integrated health services, including cancer services. A clinical services plan for the redeveloped hospital is currently being finalised, detailing the range of health services that will be incorporated in the redevelopment.

Bowral and District Hospital Redevelopment – Stage 1

The Bowral and District Hospital Redevelopment – Stage 1 has been led by the Redevelopment Project Team, Bowral and District Hospital executive and Health Infrastructure NSW in collaboration with clinicians, subject matter experts and members of the community.

The District Palliative Care Service were consulted during the planning phase of the Redevelopment in 2015 to accommodate palliative and end of life patients and ensure an optimum environment for both patients and family members.

QUESTION 3

How do you believe work can be best undertaken regarding the planning of the future needs of palliative care and palliative care services in South-West Sydney?

ANSWER

The Local Health District has a comprehensive strategic plan for advance care planning, end of life and palliative care to 2021. The District will build on this work and undertake further strategic planning in this important area.

Extensive consumer engagement is central to all planning activity and paramount in development of the Plan beyond 2021. Planning processes consider statewide plans and will align with the NSW Health End of Life and Palliative Care Framework 2019-2024. The existing plan will be updated with new and emerging models of care.

The Plan will be cognisant to the diverse, multicultural communities that the District represents, including vulnerable populations, Aboriginal communities and those from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. Community services will include strategies that improve understandings of palliative care and end of life, volunteers and organisations that build capacity to support patients and carers in social and living activities and other community development approaches that complement clinical service provisions.

Clinical services planning within the District includes planning for future palliative care services.

QUESTION 4

What do you believe will be the best way of funding the future needs of palliative care and palliative care services in South-West Sydney?

ANSWER

The further development of palliative care services in south western Sydney should be in a range of care settings and reflect the multidisciplinary care needs of the community. This should include medical, nursing and allied health. It should also be inclusive of hospital consultative services, outpatients and inpatient units and community services including at home and in-reach to residential aged care facilities. With significant increases in population in the Macarthur region, it is acknowledged that identified funding for these services will be required.

Programs such as the Palliative Care Home Support packages (PEACH) are paramount in providing care and support to patients and their carers/family to enable appropriate and timely end of life care at home. The PEACH program supports patient and carer/family choice, through partnering with local primary/specialist palliative care services.

Primary care services, particularly community nursing and Allied Health access at home are essential to caring for and supporting patients and their carers from diagnosis to end of life care. Opportunities to provide further support for families and carers, including bereavement support, will continue to be identified.

Introducing data collection such as Palliative Care Outcomes Collaboration (PCOC) in community services will also provide an improved metric for palliative care at home. These state-wide data systems for palliative care and end of life care will assist the District in clearly monitoring levels of access to care, track improvements over time and service planning.

The ability to apply for specific project/grant funding from the NSW Ministry of Health will continue to give the District the opportunity to develop and evaluate new initiatives, resources and specific models of care to support service development.

Support provided through equipment loans and home type packages is also critical in assisting families providing palliative care to loved ones in their homes. The growing demand for these services will need to be considered in funding the future needs of palliative care.

It is also important to note the important role of general practitioners and residential aged care facilities in the provision of palliative care, as well as the role the Commonwealth government plays in the remuneration of these services.