

Inquiry into health outcomes and access to health and hospital services in rural, regional and remote New South Wales.

Supplementary Questions Answered.

### **Question 1**

In addition to what is contained in your submission and evidence provided at the public hearing, do you have any further comments regarding the current provision of palliative medicine, nursing and care in rural, regional and remote New South Wales?

### **Response 1.**

Palliative care in Hillston is normally carried out by the community nurse (currently no permanent community nurse in Hillston), the local hospital and the Wagga Wagga palliative nurse practitioner. Currently the palliative care operates (Monday – Thursday 8:00am – 4:30pm) and if assistance is required outside these hours, then individuals would need to call the helpline or go to the hospital. This means that the individual may see a number of health professionals rather than just the one or two health professional to take care of them. If the individual is required to go to hospital, (the local hospital is amazing), families can come and go as necessary, but some individuals feel confined in the room and not able to go about their daily routine as if they were at home. Also, individuals know that its terminal when they go into the room at the hospital, opposed to being at home.

### **Question 2**

In addition to what is contained in your submission and evidence provided at the public hearing, do you have any further comments regarding ways to improve both the access and availability of palliative medicine, nursing and care in rural, regional and remote New South Wales?

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Supplementary Questions Answered.

**Response 2.**

Palliative care should be available 24/7 and where possible the individual and family should deal with one or two health professionals (as when a number of health professional are involved the individual / families loses the ability to develop a bond with their health professionals). The closest palliative nurse practitioner is Wagga Wagga (approximately 3 1/2 hours away) and I thought that Griffith would have been large enough to have their own palliative nurse practitioner. There should also be more hospices available to patients.