

Sunday May 7 2016

Feasibility Study says no to Hospice

Palliative Care Tasmania supports the findings of the feasibility study into a northern hospice, commissioned by the Tasmanian Government. General Manager of Palliative Care Tasmania (PCT) Colleen Johnstone said “it is clear from the findings that there is little evidence at this point in time to support a stand-alone hospice in Launceston and that existing services meet the benchmark”.

Ms Johnstone said the critical role regional palliative care services provide in Northern Tasmania was appropriately addressed in the Feasibility Study. “With more than 70% of us wanting to die at home or within our own community, regional palliative care services are essential to the overall care equation”.

“Basically what this Feasibility Study tells us is that community expectations for palliative care services are being met. However, there is more work that can be done to ensure existing services continue to meet demand. We believe there is a need for increased coordination and collaboration between palliative care services to ensure that goals for end of life care are effectively met” Ms Johnstone said.

“It is also important that communication about the great work of acute and community based palliative care services is enhanced. We know there is a level of confusion and a loss of confidence in the Northern Tasmanian community, and among care providers, about the palliative care and end of life treatment options and services that are available.”

Ms Johnstone said “Palliative Care Tasmania would support the Tasmanian Government in the development of a clear plan to actively promote the great work of the Specialist Palliative Care Service North, Calvary’s Melwood Unit, the hospice@Home program, the work of the Launceston General Hospital, aged care providers, and importantly, the work of community organisations.”

In line with this, Palliative Care Tasmania is hosting the Dying to Talk Expo (funded by the Australian Government’s Better Access to Palliative Care in Tasmania Program) at the Albert Hall on 21 May 2016 (10am – 4pm). About 40 exhibitors will showcase palliative care services in Northern Tasmania. The expo will be held in Hobart at Princes Wharf 1 on 28 May. With free entry and activities for children, everyone in the community is invited to attend.

For an interview or more information contact 6231 2799.