

Tuesday 13 September 2016

## “Committee Chair’s comments interesting” says peak body

State palliative care peak body, Palliative Care Tasmania, was interested to hear comments about the future of the palliative care sector made yesterday by Liberal MHA Joan Rylah, the Chair of the Parliamentary Committee Inquiry into Palliative Care.

General Manager Colleen Johnstone said that Ms Rylah’s comments about the ‘learnings’ of the Better Access to Palliative Care in Tasmania program (BAPC), under which PCT was funded, were positive.

However, for her to then say that any new funding should be directed towards new projects showed that Ms Rylah may not have a full understanding and appreciation of the service PCT provides to the community and its proven track record in the sector.

“We have been lobbying hard on behalf of the Tasmanian community to ensure people have access to information and education to help them plan for a good death”, Ms Johnstone said. “Our program is so successful that we are looked on as a national leader in our field”, she said.

Palliative Care Tasmania uses a community development model where it works closely with local communities and organisations to help meet their particular needs in the most effective way for that community.

“I note Ms Rylah’s interest in the BAPC review and her comments about the need to ‘keep progressing to make things better’”, Ms Johnstone said. “This is what Palliative Care Tasmania is doing and has been working towards”.

Ms Johnstone said the reality is that without ongoing funding there will not be a palliative care peak body to keep the sector progressing in Tasmania.

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