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Palliative Care ‘skimmed over’ in Budget

The future of the Better Access to Palliative Care in Tasmania Program is in question following last night’s Federal Budget according to the peak body for the sector in Tasmania.

General Manager of Palliative Care Tasmania (PCT) Colleen Johnstone said the Federal Government’s focus appeared to be on palliative and end-of-life care after June 2017.

“Unfortunately, this will result in a lag between the end of our program on September 30 this year and the commencement of new palliative and end-of-life care funding and activities in 2017-18.

“However, we welcome the reference in the Health Portfolio Budget Statement that the Government will *‘continue to implement national projects that support quality improvement in palliative care priority areas including education, training, quality standards and advance care planning,’* Ms Johnstone said.

The Program has delivered effective services across Tasmania, over the past three years with Palliative Care Tasmania providing education and community development services to more than 5000 people and organisations across the state.

“There is a significant risk that PCT will not be in a position after September to deliver any of the services that have proven to be both highly cost-effective and valuable to the community,” Ms Johnstone said.

“Palliative Care Tasmania will make representations to all Federal members and candidates to try to secure their support for our future funding as an election commitment.”

For an interview or more information contact 6231 2799 or email admin@tahpc.org.au