



PalliativeCare

TASMANIA

Tasmanian Association for Hospice
and Palliative Care Inc.

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MEDIA RELEASE

State's Palliative Care Peak Body Given Last Minute Reprieve

Palliative Care Tasmania has been provided with project funding of approximately \$80,000 by the State Government to continue its work providing education to service providers about advance care planning, grief and bereavement, and non-clinical palliative care skills.

General Manager Colleen Johnstone said the funding comes at a critical time in the organisation's life. "We have closed the Launceston office and were about to close the Hobart office when we received word of this funding," she said.

The funding allows Palliative Care Tasmania to continue work on a project for the Department of Health and Human Services, which was started under the Better Access to Palliative Care in Tasmania Program. The project aims to increase the confidence and skills in GP's, Practice Nurses and other palliative care service providers when caring for the dying.

It also means that Palliative Care Tasmania can continue to operate in a reduced capacity, with the Hobart office open one day a week.

However, Ms Johnstone cautioned against getting too excited. She said that although this funding demonstrates the Government's support of the work Palliative Care Tasmania does, the organisation is not yet out of the woods.

"We are waiting for the State Budget, which coincidentally, falls during National Palliative Care Week this year." She said. "It will be fantastic if Palliative Care Tasmania receives recurrent peak body funding in the budget. Because until we have that level of funding commitment our future remains uncertain."

Ms Johnstone also said that it means the waiting list of organisations that need Palliative Care Tasmania's services will continue to grow, particularly in aged care. And access to education, information and advocacy services for service providers and the wider community continues to be impacted.

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