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Palliative Care Policy Framework looks to the future

Palliative Care Tasmania welcomes the release of the Tasmanian Government's Palliative Care Policy Framework.

Palliative Care Tasmania General Manager, Colleen Johnstone said the Framework is the first dedicated palliative care policy seen in Tasmania for a long time and shows a level of commitment from the Government for palliative care.

She said the Framework focussed not only on Specialist Palliative Care, but also on the important role the community plays in supporting people at the end of life.

"The community, including unpaid carers and volunteers, provide the majority of palliative care support for the dying and with more and more people choosing to die at home, the Framework's emphasis on the community shows a contemporary approach to what palliative care is." Ms Johnstone said.

"The sector needs more access to appropriate education and training and service providers need to have a good understanding about the needs of the communities they service. Consumers also need a better understanding of their options for care at the end of life and how to access support." Ms Johnstone said.

As the Peak Body for the Palliative Care Sector in the State, Palliative Care Tasmania is hopeful that this Framework will build a solid foundation for the sector to develop and continuously improve, to ensure that all Tasmanians have access to the absolute best standard of palliative care possible.

"This Framework is a high level strategic document so it will be interesting to see how this will work on the ground", Ms Johnstone said. "What we need now is for the State Government to provide appropriate funding to ensure the Framework becomes a sustainable model for end of life care in the future."

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