



Thursday 25 May 2017

MEDIA RELEASE

Palliative Care in Tasmania largely overlooked in State Budget.

As National Palliative Care Week comes to a close, it is disappointing to see little recognition of the sector in the State Budget.

Palliative Care Tasmania General Manager Colleen Johnstone, said that whilst the acknowledgement of Community Palliative Nursing and the promise of increased palliative services at the Mersey Hospital were encouraging, the lack of any other new funding to the sector appears to be at odds with the Government's recently released policy framework.

"The Framework's focus on workforce development and the important role of the community in end of life care appears not to have translated into funding for its implementation, or strengthening the sector." Ms Johnstone said.

As for the future of the State's palliative peak body, Ms Johnstone said that Palliative Care Tasmania's only chance of survival depends on the organisation receiving funding from the \$3 million in palliative care funding for Tasmania announced in the recent Federal Budget.

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