

Date:

Member of Parliament

Hon. \_\_\_\_\_

I call on the government of South Australia to improve the experiences of adults and children at the end of life, and their families and carers. Although the vast majority of us would prefer to be cared for and die at home, in a care home, or in a hospice, the reality is that more than half of us die in hospital, often through avoidable and unnecessary emergency admissions.

People need good palliative care, wherever they are. But we know that unacceptable inequities in access and provision of care and support at the end of life is causing hardship and suffering and this gap needs to close urgently.

Inherent in the 2013 Health Performance Council SA's Report Improving End-of-Life Care for South Australians is an acceptance that people at the end of their lives should be cared for and die **in the place of their choice**. Palliative Care South Australia too have outlined shortfalls in the quality and availability of palliative care.

I ask you to support government to move swiftly and implement the mechanisms outlined by Palliative Care South Australia (\$24.5 Million) which will deliver better outcomes for people at the end of life – whatever their condition and wherever they are cared for – and better value for the South Australian Health Department.

A \$24.5 Million funding injection is required to provide for sufficient palliative care services to meet the existing and anticipated future demands for such services in all areas of the State and in all types of institutions or other places where such services are required.

Yours sincerely