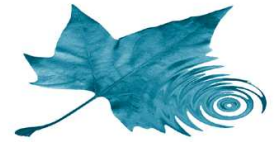


Palliative Care Council of South Australia Inc



Position Statement

Advance Care Planning in South Australia

The Palliative Care Council of South Australia Inc holds that:

- patients have the right to refuse medical treatment
- an easy-to-use legislative framework which enables South Australians to specify, in advance, the type of end-of-life care they would like or not like (or to appoint others to make this decision in accord with their expressed wishes), is essential to help ensure South Australians are able to refuse futile, undignified, painful and unwelcome treatments when they are dying
- *The Consent to Medical Treatment and Palliative Care Act 1995* is important legislation, however:
 - ongoing work is needed to refine the legislation so that barriers to uptake are minimised
 - more resources are required so that community knowledge of the *Act* (and its relationship to other advance care planning legislation) is enhanced
- a uniform way of recording and communicating clinical decisions to withdraw treatment when people are dying should be adopted in all health care institutions across South Australia
- public resources should be committed to ensure health care providers receive training about advance care planning so that they are able to make good decisions and respect the wishes of their patients
- mutual recognition of advance care planning legislation between Australian jurisdictions is needed.

Adopted 05 December 2006.