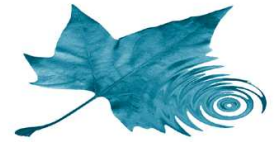


Palliative Care Council of South Australia Inc



Position Statement

Specialist Palliative Care Service Provision in South Australia

The Palliative Care Council of South Australia Inc holds that:

- the principle objects of end-of-life care include helping people live actively until they die and providing support to bereaved people¹
- caring for dying people and the people close to them is a broader community responsibility
- all public and private health care providers have a responsibility to provide sensitive, safe and holistic care to those people in their charge who are dying – this should be acknowledged at the appropriate level by services, agencies and institutions in their planning and funding structures
- specialist palliative care services should be available to all South Australians who need them, regardless of their location, age, diagnosis or capacity to pay – this means that the public health system should provide services in all parts of the state
- specialist palliative care services should be resourced to ensure patients and their families are able to access input from the range of disciplines they need, including volunteers
- metropolitan services should be resourced to provide specialist medical support to rural services and the patients in their care who need it
- specialist palliative care services should be resourced to help build local community capacity around dying and death – by educating the general community and other health care providers about practical aspects of dying and death and facilitating reflection on and discussion about living and dying.

Adopted 26 September 2006

¹ Definition of Palliative Care – World Health Organisation, 2002 @ www.who.int/cancer/palliative/en accessed 15 September 2006