

Tabled - 24 April 2012
Opening Statement
Aust. Nursing Federation
Canberra hearing
PALLIATIVE CARE.



Senate Inquiry into Palliative Care in Australia

Introductory Statement

With the nursing and midwifery professions constituting over fifty percent of the health and aged care workforce, they are delivering the greater proportion of palliative care in this country. As the union representing the professional and industrial interests of nurses, midwives and assistants in nursing the ANF has a very real concern with palliative care policies, service delivery models, access and equity issues, research, innovation, education, continuing professional development, and outcomes of models of care for recipients of palliation.

We welcome the opportunity to appear before this Committee in its inquiry into Palliative Care in Australia, to clarify any issues raised in our written submission and expand on issues raised. In order to provide you with the information we believe you need our team consists of registered nurses with expertise in palliative care, aged care, Indigenous Australian health issues, rural and remote settings of care, and policy.

Palliative care models and services have improved in quality and increased in number over past years, and we know that palliative care specialist nurses have been at the forefront of these advances. As there's still much work to be done, we're requesting that the Committee take heed of advice received through witnesses, to make recommendations for funding investment which can enable further enhancements to care delivery, health professional education, and research endeavours, to achieve better outcomes of palliative care for our community.