

9 August 2012

Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committees on Community Affairs
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

Dear Sir/Madam,

Responses to Questions on Notice – Senate Inquiry into Palliative Care in Australia.

As you are aware, Cancer Council NSW and LifeCircle gave evidence at the Senate Standing Committee on Community Affairs' public hearing about palliative care in Australia, held on 24 April 2012.

During the hearing the Committee asked Cancer Council NSW and LifeCircle to provide further information at a later stage about two areas of interest to the Committee:

- difficulties experienced in accessing Home and Community Care (HACC) services
- the Australian Government's recently announced aged care strategy and associated funding.

In relation to difficulties experienced accessing HACC services, we would like to refer the Committee to research included in our submission to your Inquiry. In 2009, the Statewide Centre for Improvement of Palliative Care in NSW Health surveyed members of the NSW Palliative Care Service Development Officer network. This research considered issues of timely access, eligibility and coordination in relation to HACC services for palliative care patients, issues directly relevant to the Committee.

In relation to the Australian Government's aged care strategy and funding, we note that this was announced on 20 April 2012, in response to the Productivity Commission's 2011 report on aged care. While the Cancer Council NSW and LifeCircle welcome the substantial additional funding in areas such as the provision of tailored home care packages, other organisations that specifically focus on aged care would be better placed to provide detailed advice to the Committee about these reforms.

We would like to thank the Committee for the opportunity to provide both written and verbal evidence to this Inquiry and we look forward to the release of the Inquiry report.

If you have any further queries, please contact Jo Alley, Senior Policy Analyst on (02) 9334 1779 or email joa@cancercouncil.org.au.

Yours sincerely

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