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Dr Ian Holland
Committee Secretary
Community Affairs References Committee
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

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Dear Dr Holland

Thank you for your letter of 10 July 2012 to Ms Kate Swetenham requesting additional information as part of the evidence provided on my behalf at the Community Affairs References Committee inquiry into Palliative Care services in South Australia.

The information below is provided by SA Health in response to the questions taken on notice during the Community Affairs References Committee.

The proportion of palliative care services provided to the >65 years, <65 years and <18 years age groups in South Australia:

Age profile	Proportions
<18	It is not possible to provide accurate details regarding the proportion of palliative care services for this age group because children are admitted under the care of their treatment team. For example, a patient managed by the cystic fibrosis team who also receives treatment from the palliative care team care will be recorded under the cystic fibrosis team. Therefore, these patients are not identifiable using the Hospital Information Portal.
19 - 64	Approximately one third of palliative patients fall within this age group
65 +	Approximately two thirds of palliative patients fall within this age group

What Commonwealth funding, other than COAG funds, are used to provide palliative care services in South Australia?

Inpatient palliative care beds are state funded. With funding through the COAG subacute program, community based palliative care services are expanding to support the increasing number of patients receiving end of life care at home.

Residential Aged Care Facilities also have a mandate to provide end of life care for their residents. The Commonwealth Government uses an Aged Care Funding Instrument (ACFI) to allocate subsidies to residential aged care providers for palliative care.

Any additional information about Commonwealth funding will need to be discussed with the Commonwealth.

Extended Care Paramedic/Palliative Care Project - Report

An evaluation was conducted to assess the delivery of an after hours rapid response to palliative care clients by extended care paramedics in the Adelaide metropolitan and peri urban areas. Full detail of the evaluation is enclosed.

Has SA Health made a submission to the Commonwealth to receive "special case" funding for palliative care research?

SA Health has not made a submission to receive "special case" funding.

If you have any further queries in relation to this matter, please contact Ms Swetenham from SA Health on telephone

Yours sincerely

MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND AGEING

Date: 2.8.12