

## PROPOSAL:

**THAT EFFICIENT, SKILLED PALLIATIVE CARE BE AVAILABLE IN ALL HEALTH AND AGED CARE FACILITIES THROUGHOUT AUSTRALIA AND CAN BE EASILY ACCESSED BY HOME CARE PROVIDERS.**

## RATIONALE:

1. The fact is that Australian men and women are living to a greater age now and into the future, challenges our society to provide for the increasing numbers who will need Hostel, Hospital and specialised Home Care in the decades to come. It is the responsibility of Government to provide adequate funding for this growing need.
2. The dignity of the human person has to be respected from birth to death.
3. Facing illness and disability takes courage. The good provision of Palliative Care aims at managing symptoms and maximizing function for those so suffering. In the dying process Palliative Care enables the individual to die with less pain, and with dignity.
4. The diagnosis given by doctors that one has a terminal illness does not necessarily mean that the person so diagnosed has to spend his/her days in a Hospital or Nursing Home. Palliative Care administered in the person's own home is often a better alternative.
5. Chronically ill persons need unequivocal protection during their life. They need protection and encouragement from their community, not the undermining of their individual worth by being called a burden on society. Palliative Care given by trained professionals at all stages of their illness/disability can provide this.
6. The training of **all** medical care professionals, educated in the way to administer and support the dying with the skill and practice of sound Palliative Care, is essential.
7. Research in Australia and throughout the world substantiates the fact that Palliative Care, administered carefully and with compassion by trained providers, greatly assists the dying. This allows this stage of their life to be easier and untroubled. They then have the opportunity to express and to receive the love of family and friends. For the mental well-being of family and friends it is important that this time be as stress-free as possible.
8. As people who live in a rural area in New South Wales we consider that our health system needs to have the resources (human and financial) allocated to them to enable sound Palliative Care to be available for all people suffering a terminal illness, no matter where they live in Australia.