



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2014-2015
Brendan Smyth MLA (Chair), Mary Porter MLA (Deputy-Chair),
Giulia Jones MLA, Yvette Berry MLA



**ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE
DURING PUBLIC HEARINGS**

Asked by Ms Porter on 20 June 2014: Ms Gallagher took on notice the following question(s):

Ref HD-No 13: Hansard Transcript 20 June 2014, page 96

In relation to the Palliative Care Strategy

MS PORTER: Just that you mentioned palliative care in amongst that list of things you were talking about just now, minister. So I am interested—but I know that we are just before the break, so it is getting—if you could give the committee on notice an update of how the implementation of your new palliative care strategy, the plan? To give it its correct title, the ACT palliative care services plan 2013-17.

So, with regard to—which is linked into this—advanced care planning, do you expect this work that Medicare Local have been doing on the advanced care planning to be affected at all by any changes in the future that may be brought with regard to Medicare Local's role?

And in relation to that, they raised at my forum that I had in March here the difficulty that some people have in completing the advance care plan because of the complexity around—you know, they do not believe it is a very user-friendly process, and some even said that they thought that there was some cross-over between legislation, different forms of legislation that we have that may perhaps be brought together in some way or harmonised in some way in order to make it easier. I was wondering if you could just take perhaps those on notice, given the time frame.

Ms Gallagher: Yes.

MS PORTER: And bring us back some answers.

Ms Gallagher: Well, if I just answer the one on the Medicare Local, look, I think there is a chance it will be affected. The Medicare Local essentially are going to trade down for the next 12 months because they have absolutely no certainty on their future—

MS PORTER: They have been doing some really good work in this area.

Ms Gallagher: Yes, they have. So they do have some partnerships with us, but the majority of their funding comes from the commonwealth, and they have 70 staff and they have no certainty for that. So they do not feel that they are in a position to really to accelerate or do anything other than wind up the organisation. So I think that is a shame. Three

MS PORTER: But, anyway, if we can have the answers to those other matters on notice, that would be fantastic.

Katy Gallagher MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

I released the ACT Health Palliative Care Services Plan 2013–17 (the Plan) on 28 October 2013.

One of the key areas addressed under the plan was the increased awareness and use of Advance Care Planning for patients, their carers and families, as well as for health professionals.

An identified strategy of the Plan was the development of an integrated and coordinated ACT Palliative Care Clinical Network (the Network) to work flexibly across the various service delivery settings in the ACT and surrounding NSW region to provide a cohesive palliative care service and to give effect to the Plan.

The Network has a membership representing all of the key organisations responsible for, and/or with an interest in, the coordination and provision of palliative care services in the ACT and surrounding region.

The Network held its first meeting on 8 May 2014 and meets monthly. It is currently working on an implementation plan to help plan and guide its work.

The ACT Palliative Care Committee (the Committee) is also currently being developed to oversee the implementation of the Plan, provide guidance and support to the ACT Palliative Care Clinical Network and coordinate and develop a yearly action plan relating to the implementation of the Plan.

The Committee will have an executive membership representing all of the key organisations responsible for, and/or with an interest in, the coordination and provision of palliative care services in the ACT and surrounding region.

The Committee will first meet in (or around) late July 2014 and will reconvene on a quarterly basis.

On 9 May 2014, the Minister for Ageing, Mr Shane Rattenbury MLA, launched the 'Be My Voice Advance Care Planning Community Awareness Campaign'.

The campaign was a joint initiative between ACT Medicare local and ACT Health, designed to help family and friends initiate conversations with their loved ones about their values and wishes around future healthcare in order to complete an Advance Care Plan detailing their wishes for end of life care including medical treatment.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2014-2015

Signature: 

Date: 30.6.14

By the Minister for Health, Katy Gallagher MLA