

24 June 2016

Mr Todd Buttsworth
Secretary
Inquiry into Palliative Care in Tasmania
House of Assembly
Parliament House
Hobart TAS 7000

Email: communitydevelopment@parliament.tas.gov.au

Dear Mr Buttsworth,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission for the *Inquiry into Palliative Care in Tasmania*.

Being the single University within Tasmania, the University of Tasmania plays a vital role in contributing to the health workforce across the State. Maintaining a strong and aligned teaching model between the University and modern local practices within the Tasmanian health sector provides a platform for ensuring an appropriately skilled Tasmania health workforce.

It is in this context that it remains a vital prerequisite for a strong health workforce that the development of health care policy, and further, health law, within Tasmania is constructed with a collaborative approach with the University. In this regard, the University of Tasmania, and in particular the Faculty of Health, has a strong relationship with the State Government, Department of Health and Human Services and the Tasmania Health Service.

However, we continue to work towards building stronger links to ensure that the development of the health workforce is integrated to the needs of the health sector.

The opportunity for students to engage in palliative care learning within the University resides within many streams of teaching:

- As an elective available for all interested health professionals, '*CNA409 The Last Year of Life: Renegotiating and Reinforcing Appropriate Care*' prepares students to care for people in the last year of their lives.
- The Master of Clinical Nursing and the articulation from the Graduate Certificate and Graduate Diploma pathways, offer palliative care teachings, along with the Bachelor of Nursing with Professional Honours (Specialty) in the Oncology specialist stream.
- Palliative care teaching is provided to support the Primary Care Rotation within the Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) within the third, fourth and fifth years.
- The University also provides public lectures and study days that provide for teachings in palliative care support.

My colleague, Professor Michael Ashby has provided an extensive submission to this inquiry. Although it has been provided in a capacity as an individual academic, given Professor Ashby's standing within the University it affords a basis of contribution to this inquiry to support this brief submission.

The University is, and should continue to be, a lead organisation in the development of health care policy within the State. The development of policy and law surrounding palliative care is no exception. I encourage the careful consideration of Professor Ashby's detailed submission and avail myself should you wish further discussion to occur.

Yours sincerely,



Professor Denise Fassett
Dean of Health

Cc: Professor Ben Canny, Head of School, School of Medicine, Faculty of Health