

Parliamentary Standing Committee
on Community Development,
Parliament House,
Hobart, Tas. 7000.

(Cr.) Bob Richardson,
40 William Street,
Westbury, Tas. 7303.
Ph 6393 1233
April 16th, 2016

re: Inquiry : Palliative Care Patients.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment upon the issues to be addressed by the Inquiry.

This submission deals with two generalities related to the Terms of Reference.

1. The importance of local and home care and support of patients.

There is probably academic data relating to local and home care; however, it is my observation over decades that patients prefer family and local care to institutionalised care. More recent cases involved patients suffering MND and Parkinson's Disease.

My observations have been that patients value care in their own home, particularly when much of that care is provided by family and friends. That is not to devalue the visits by professional health and allied health practitioners.

However, it is not just the care provided by family living out the final years of their life, or recovering at home means patients:-

- (a) remain as long as possible in their familiar surroundings;
- (b) remain (easily) accessible to friends and neighbours;
- (c) have 24/7 moral and physical support from those near and dear to them.

Colours are also able to live in familiar surroundings. Children and juveniles also prefer to be in familiar surroundings.

This is not to say that visits by health care workers are not valuable; they are! Further those visits should continue, and be extended, particularly in rural areas.

2. Services in (some) rural areas in Tasmania.

Over the past half century some rural towns have missed out on many government and quasi-government services. One of these centres is Westbury.

Westbury's current town population is about 2200 to 2300. (There are almost exactly 1000 mail boxes, which serves as a base to calculate the town population).

Unlike many similarly-sized or smaller population centres (eg. Scottsdale, St. Helens, St. Marys, St. Helens, Swansea, Deloraine, Sheffield, Beaconsfield, Lilydale, Longford, Cressy, Campbell Town, Oatlands, ----) Westbury lacks many facilities one might expect in a town of 2200+ and a population of about 9500 within a 20km radius. Westbury has no secondary/post secondary/vocational education facilities, no (rehabilitation/community) swimming pool, no local hospital, ---- and no aged care/rehabilitation facilities.

The lack of such aged care/rehabilitation facilities forces aged and ill community members to leave their home community. Similarly the Westbury community "loses" its young people at the end of year 6.

Community development should involve the whole community - "from cradle to grave."

In the case of Westbury, I would encourage government assistance to move towards establishment of facilities at Westbury, consistent with the suite of facilities in similarly-sized, and smaller communities.

Specifically, in relation to Westbury, assistance will be needed to upgrade and establish aged care / rehabilitation / palliative care, and other facilities.

Should you wish to know more in relation to these two issues, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Richardson

(Cr.) Robert G. Richardson,

B.Sc., Grad. Dip. Bus. Admin, T.T.C.



*Examined
16/4/2016*

Parliamentary Standing Committee on Community Development

The House of Assembly has referred an inquiry to the Standing Committee on Community Development with the following Terms of Reference:

To inquire into and report upon the matter of care of palliative patients generally, specifically the matters of:

- (i) advance care directives;
- (ii) administration of medical treatments to minors;
- (iii) the administration of emergency medical treatment; and,
- (iv) other matters incidental thereto.

The Committee invites interested persons or organisations to make written submissions to the Committee by the closing date of Friday, 24 June 2016.

Persons who wish to give confidential evidence to the Committee should contact the Secretary and request that the Committee hear their evidence in private.

Enquiries and submissions should be directed to:-

The Secretary,
House of Assembly Standing Committee on
Community Development
Parliament House
Hobart, TAS 7000
Phone: (03) 6212 2220
Email: communitydevelopment@parliament.tas.gov.au

Guy Barnett MP
CHAIR

Submissions become Committee documents. Persons making submissions must not release them without the approval of the Committee. Submissions are protected by parliamentary privilege but the unauthorised release of them is not. The Committee encourages the lodgement of submissions in electronic form. Emailed submissions must include name, phone number and postal address.