



Jillian Skinner MP

Minister for Health Minister for Medical Research

MEDIA RELEASE

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MINISTER SEEKS PROPOSALS FOR COMMUNITY-BASED PALLIATIVE CARE SERVICES

Health Minister Jillian Skinner has announced the NSW Government is seeking proposals for services to expand community-based palliative care across the state.

Mrs Skinner last month launched the *NSW Government Plan To Increase Access To Palliative Care 2012-2016*. She pledged an additional \$35 million over four years, on top of \$86 million annually for specialist palliative care. Millions more is spent each year on providing palliation for patients in general hospital wards.

Today she declared open a Request For Proposal process to expand community-based services, to enable more people living with a terminal condition to receive palliative care and support, at a time they need, in their place of choice.

“While 70 per cent of Australians say they want to die at home, only 16 per cent do. Over half die in hospitals, 20 per cent in hospices and 10 per cent in nursing homes,” Mrs Skinner said.

“NSW already has some good palliative care services in both the public, private and non-government sectors, delivered by a variety of organisations, but there are not enough of them and they are not equally available to all communities.

“We know we must build up community-based options. And we are seeking to involve families more directly in the provision of palliative care to their loved ones, to make it possible for more people to have a real choice about being able to die at home.”

Submissions are invited from any organisation, including private and not-for-profit providers, with a track record in providing palliative care services. These services will be integrated with primary care, aged care and specialist palliative care services and will expand support for families and carers.

Proposals should be lodged by Monday 7 January. Implementation is expected to commence in March 2013. Interested parties should register on the NSW Health eTendering web site at <https://tenders.nsw.gov.au/health/>. They should download the Request For Proposal document (reference HAC 12/70) and submit a response.

To view the *NSW Government Plan To Increase Access To Palliative Care 2012-2016*, go to www.health.nsw.gov.au/palliativecare