

Media release

Friday 15 July 2022

Palliative care grants available

Applications are now open for a small grants program aimed at strengthening the Tasmanian community's capacity to discuss, facilitate and provide palliative care.

The grants are a collaboration between Primary Health Tasmania (Tasmania PHN) and the Department of Health, Tasmania. They are funded jointly by the Australian Government under the Greater Choice for At-Home Palliative Care Measure and the Tasmanian Government under Palliative Care Partnerships Funding.

Not-for-profit community organisations can apply for a grant of **up to \$20,000** to promote resilience and resourcefulness, build social connections, and facilitate opportunities for physical, mental and psychosocial wellbeing around the topic of death and dying.

Care and support providers can apply for a grant of **up to \$50,000** to support the delivery of quality improvement initiatives focused on the coordination of services for people living with a life-limiting condition.

Primary Health Tasmania CEO Phil Edmondson said 70% of Australians want to die at home, but only 14% do so.

"Often people don't die at home either because support services are inadequate, or because they have not articulated and implemented their choice through proper discussion and planning," he said.

"We hope initiatives funded through these grants will see more Tasmanians feeling comfortable talking about death and dying, having a better awareness of and access to palliative care and other services, and being more likely to receive end-of-life care where they would like to."

Mr Edmondson said the grants program was a great example of governments working together for the good of the population they serve.

Premier and Minister for Health Jeremy Rockliff MP said: "We are committed to ensuring Tasmanians have access to the best possible palliative care when and where they, their families, and carers need it.

"The Tasmanian Government has invested \$6.8m into improving palliative care services in partnership with service providers as part of a 4-year budget commitment.

"This grant program, delivered in collaboration with Primary Health Tasmania, will support service providers and community organisations to deliver a compassionate approach to palliative care."

Grant applications close on Friday 12 August, with funded initiatives to be held by 30 June 2023. More information is available at www.engagepht.com.au/palliative-care-grants.

The grants program has been administered and implemented by Primary Health Tasmania.

The Greater Choice for At-Home Palliative Care Measure aims to support people with life-limiting conditions by improving the coordination and integration of palliative care across primary, secondary, tertiary and community health services.

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