



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY
12th Assembly

Petition

Registration No.	60
Title	Hospice for people of Central Australia
Presented on	24 May 2016
Presented by	Ms Walker (Member for Nhulunbuy)
Referred to	Minister for Health (Hon John Elferink MLA)
Date referred	24 May 2016
Response due	20 October 2016
Response received	12 August 2016
	Response to be presented during the first sitting week of the 13 th Assembly

Petition

TO THE HONOURABLE THE SPEAKER AND MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY:

WE THE UNDERSIGNED RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH

The need for a Purpose Built Hospice for the People of Central Australia

YOUR PETITIONERS THEREFORE HUMBLY PRAY THAT

- *A purpose built hospice for the people of Central Australia to access quality services for the dying be built in Alice Springs.*
- *Darwin has a world class hospice we need a Centre of Excellence in Palliative Care in Central Australia not a multi-purpose ward*

AND YOUR PETITIONERS AS IN DUTY BOUND WILL EVER PRAY

Response

As required by Standing Order 123, I am responding to petition No. 60 regarding a call for a purpose-built hospice to be built in Alice Springs. I note the petition was signed by 17 Alice Springs residents and was presented to the Legislative Assembly by the Member for Nhulunbuy Ms Lynne Walker on 24 May 2016.

I wish to advise that there is currently a project underway for the building of a Multi-Purpose Facility on the Alice Springs Hospital campus. Whilst this is not exclusively for the use of palliative care patients, they will certainly be prioritised and the facility will provide a much improved and more homely environment for both the patient and their

loved ones. The design of the facility has been undertaken in consultation with the community and has resulted in a building which provides 24 hour access for family and loved ones as well as access to outdoor space, kitchen and living facilities.

The design provides for ten bedrooms, communal day/living space and associated support spaces and also offers families the option of rooming in with the patient on foldout sofas. Because it is anticipated the number of bedrooms will provide more accommodation than is currently required by palliative care patients in Alice Springs, it has been determined that patients needing maintenance care in a sub-acute setting will also be accommodated according to available capacity. The building work is expected to be completed in April 2017.

The location and access to the facility on the Alice Springs Hospital campus will optimise the potential to utilise existing clinical expertise, clinical support and non-clinical support services that are already established within the Alice Springs Hospital. The location will also enable efficient transition of care away from the acute environment in a less clinical setting when appropriate.

Currently in Alice Springs the Central Australia Health Service Palliative Care team operates out of Eurilpa House and provides specialist care and support to both inpatients and outpatients. There is also a Palliative Care Respite House in Spicer Street which provides respite for palliative care patients and their families.

I am confident this new facility will more than adequately provide the 'Centre of Excellence in Palliative Care' called for in the petition.