

Palliative Care WA Inc

Communiqué

The participants in the *Matter of Life and Death Forum*, held in Perth on 27 May 2008, have a shared vision of increased awareness and acceptance of death as a part of life, and better care at the end of life¹ for all Western Australians, their carers and communities, in Western Australia.

We recognise that:

- the entire community has a role to play in supporting people at the end of life and those dealing specifically with dying, death and bereavement – and that the organised health system is not solely responsible for this
- communities, families and individuals need practical support and resources in order to effectively support and care for people at the end of their life
- ongoing system reform is needed to improve coordination, continuity of care, flexibility and sensitivity within the organised health system for those at the end of life, their families, carers and communities
- reform should be guided by the principles of dignity, empowerment, compassion, respect, equity, excellence and accountability.

We agree to meet again in future to share knowledge, insight and information about end of life care issues that affect all Western Australians, and in particular to consider:

- ways in which we can enhance the community's capacity to deal with the end of life
- the issues as they affect our own organisations, groups and constituencies
- ways in which we can advocate collectively for change if it is needed.

Palliative Care WA Inc invites all organisations to endorse the Communiqué.

If you or your organisation is interested in adopting or endorsing the Communiqué, please contact

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¹ end of life: The period of time marked by disability or disease that is progressively worse until death.