



Jillian Skinner
Minister for Health

MEDIA RELEASE

Friday 30 October 2015

EXPANDED SUPPORT SERVICES FOR THOSE WHO WISH TO DIE AT HOME

People with a terminal illness who wish to die at home are set to benefit from expanded home support packages funded by the NSW Government.

The packages will now be available to more people in three Local Health Districts - South Western Sydney, Nepean Blue Mountains and Illawarra Shoalhaven. These packages are part of the NSW Government's statewide, \$55 million commitment to community-based palliative care over six years.

Health Minister Jillian Skinner was joined at the Casula Powerhouse today by Member for Holsworthy Melanie Gibbons as she launched a DVD which promotes the Palliative Care Home Support Packages (PEACH) program to general practitioners, patients and carers.

The PEACH packages include personal care during the day, a visit from an evening registered nurse and video support with a night nurse as the patient reaches the end of his or her life. The PEACH program is coordinated in collaboration with not-for-profit health provider Silver Chain.

Since December 2013, 510 people accessing PEACH packages in these three Local Health Districts have been supported to die at home. Similar packages are available in other Local Health Districts across the state.

"Around 80 per cent of Australians tell us they would rather spend their last days with loved ones in their own home than in an acute hospital setting. Flexible packages tailored to the individual's needs are ensuring more people are fulfilling their wish," Mrs Skinner said.

Ms Gibbons said: "It's nice to know terminally ill people have a choice on where they spend their last days and I am pleased our Government is providing this support."

The PEACH program is a finalist in the 2015 NSW Health Awards in the Patients as Partners category. The awards ceremony will be held on Monday night.