

11 June 2021

James Downie
Chief Executive Officer
Independent Hospital Pricing Authority
PO Box 483
DARLINGHURST NSW 1300

Email: submissions.ihpa@ihpa.gov.au

Dear Mr Downie

RE: Submission for the Independent Hospital Pricing Authority (IHPA) in relation to the public consultation paper on the Pricing Framework for Australian Public Hospital Services (the Pricing Framework)

Palliative Care Nurses Australia (PCNA) is a member organisation for Australian nurses who are passionate about excellence in palliative care. We provide a unified voice for nurses who deliver, or have an enduring interest in, palliative care policy, practice, research and education. Our goal is to support our members to provide high quality, evidence-based palliative care services for patients at the end of life, and their families.

We are keen to provide the following comments for consideration:

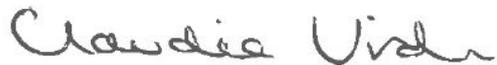
1. People with palliative care needs make up a significant proportion of those receiving admitted care across Australian hospitals (approximately one third of admitted people);
2. Enabling appropriate pricing codes, funding options and resourcing for all of these patients (whether they are seen by specialist palliative care or not) is important and will enable more accurate reporting of incidence and quality of care provision into the future. We feel a need to consider optimal care provision and commissioning with realistic acknowledgement of the funding and resourcing for appropriate multi-disciplinary care is vital to enable safe and quality care;
3. Consideration of care provided (and related funding/resourcing) for someone with palliative care needs who is on a terminal admission as opposed to a non-terminal admission (not dying but has palliative care needs) is also required for two reasons:
 - I. Ensuring optimal care of the imminently dying person and their family, including bereavement care; and
 - II. Identifying the large population of inpatients with palliative care needs (in their last year or so of life) who would benefit from a focus on coordinated care that enables and supports them to live as well as possible, in the context of their advancing illness – including access to rehabilitation support focused on maximising wellbeing and independence, as appropriate.

4. The need to consider quality management and accreditation processes that incorporate a focus on patient and family experiences of care in addition to their current safety and quality foci

We write this submission to highlight the large and important role hospitals play in enabling optimal palliative care for patients who require this, and their families/carers. Ensuring appropriate funding, resourcing and reimbursement for optimal service provision for this population will be an important step forward in enabling system-wide change and improvement. Specifically, we advocate for a challenge to the funding drivers to switch from episodic management to a focus on quality care to maximise quality of life for this population.

With thanks for the opportunity to contribute within this consultation process. We would be pleased to provide additional input if required.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Claudia Viridun". The script is cursive and fluid.

Claudia Viridun
Secretary, Palliative Care Nurses Australia Inc.