



HON **Rick Colless** MLC

PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY FOR NATURAL RESOURCES AND WESTERN NSW

Chairman, NSW Forest Industries Taskforce

MEDIA RELEASE

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CARING FOR ORANGE: PALLIATIVE CARE TRIAL SIGNED WITH UNITING

Some relief is in sight for residents in Orange with the Local Health District signing up to a palliative care trial.

The Western NSW Local Health District (WNSWLHD) will partner with Uniting Parkwood in a 12-month trial providing end-of-life care in Orange.

Parliamentary Secretary for Western NSW, Rick Colless MLC said that a panel, including community representation, had considered expressions of interest from several proponents, with a directed tender process then identifying Uniting as the preferred provider.

“It’s an important service for the community, and, as with end of life care provided at Orange Hospital, there will be no charge to patients and their families. We want people at the end of their life to have the best care and to not have to worry about the cost.

“Over the 12-month pilot, there will be four beds available at a Uniting facility in the Orange community for the provision of end-of-life care,” Mr Colless said.

“Patients will be admitted to these beds through the Orange Health Service and the level of clinical care they receive will be of the same standard as they would receive in hospital.”

Mr Colless said that the trial would add another option for patients moving into end-of-life care.

“Some people receiving palliative care will continue to need to be admitted into the acute hospital environment, and of course many people receive palliative care in their home through a range of health and community services.

“When a person is moving into end-of-life care, this new service will mean that there is another local option where the level of clinical care is high, but the environment is much more home-like with proper facilities for families to spend quality time with their loved ones”, Mr Colless said.

Uniting and the WNSWLHD have signed a deed of agreement for the trial, which will be funded by the NSW Government for 12 months.

There will be an evaluation of both the clinical care provided and the experiences of patients and their families. The Uniting facility is currently being refurbished and will start receiving patients by the end of March this year.

“It is a credit to the community members who have lobbied so strongly for this type of service, that we are at the point now of having such a highly respected partner to work with in Uniting,” Mr Colless said.

ENDS

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