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Dear members

I am writing to inform you of pending changes to palliative care services at Lyell McEwin and Modbury Hospitals.

Under *South Australia's Health Care Plan 2007-2016*, Modbury Hospital's focus is changing to become a centre for elective surgery, palliative care and rehabilitation services.

In line with the Statewide Palliative Care Plan and beginning as soon as is practical, six inpatient palliative care beds at the Lyell McEwin Hospital (LMH) will transfer to Modbury's existing Palliative Care Unit, 4 West.

A further 12 beds currently utilised at LMH for patients requiring low-level care, including those awaiting care placement, will be transferred to Modbury in January 2010, once appropriate refurbishments to Modbury's ward 2 West have taken place.

I would like to emphasise that existing palliative care patients at LMH will not be affected by the service transfer. Those patients currently accessing the six palliative care beds at LMH will not be moved or disturbed, and will remain at LMH so as to not impact on their care. All new palliative admissions will be made to Modbury Hospital.

We are committed to consultation with clinicians and stakeholders at both LMH and Modbury to ensure a smooth transition of services, and will be working closely with relevant staff over the coming days and weeks to make sure all clinical and logistical needs are met.

This transfer of services from LMH to Modbury Hospital will free up a total of 18 inpatient beds at LMH, with the aim of easing pressure on LMH's busy Emergency Department (ED). This increased bed capacity will speed up the task of admitting ED patients to beds, ultimately reduce waiting times for patients presenting to the LMH ED, improving the management of ED presentations and improving the outcome for patients through enhanced patient care.

This is an important change which will assist us to provide a quality palliative care service in the north-eastern suburbs, whilst helping address ED pressures at Lyell McEwin Hospital, and I thank you for your support as we work with clinicians at the two hospitals to ensure a smooth transition and a good outcome for public health patients.

DR TONY SHERBON
Chief Executive

25, 11, 09