



Daryl Maguire MP

Member for Wagga Wagga

PRESS RELEASE

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WAGGA WAGGA RECEIVES PALLIATIVE CARE FUNDING FOR FORREST CENTRE EXPANSION

The Murrumbidgee community is now assured of a new 10-bed palliative care facility after today's announcement by Wagga Wagga MP Daryl Maguire of a \$2 million funding contribution by the Liberal National Government towards the Forrest Centre's new hospice.

"The community has been very generous to date in raising \$2 million towards the new facility," Mr Maguire said. "It is a welcome announcement that the Berejiklian Government will contribute to the construction of our Hospice.

"The 2017/18 NSW State budget included a record \$100 million palliative care package for regional NSW. After years of the previous Labor Government neglecting our region, the Berejiklian Government has addressed this very real need for palliative care services across the state.

"This significant investment in palliative care will not only address the need for specialist training of staff in rural and regional communities. The funding is also to provide for additional healthcare workers – doctors and nurses – for extra positions in regional areas, including Murrumbidgee," Mr Maguire said.

"Daryl Maguire, as a member of the Liberal National Government, has been strong in his advocacy for the need for funding towards the Forrest Centre palliative care model. The Government funding now facilitates a palliative care model tailored to the local community," Minister for Health Brad Hazzard said.

The Forrest Centre's Chairman, Peter Fitzpatrick, congratulated the NSW Government for its commitment in ensuring this crucial contribution and indicated that the \$2 million was "the last piece of the palliative care puzzle" in ensuring the Centre is built.

"Not everyone gets to die at home – everyone would like to but there are often hurdles. Here at the Forrest Centre, we will provide a space for people to die with dignity, irrespective of their standing in the community," Mr Fitzpatrick said.

The Forrest Centre is a unique ecumenical joint venture between the Anglican Diocese of Canberra and Goulburn and the Little Company of Mary, a congregation of Roman Catholic Religious Sisters. The Centre incorporates the 60-bed Mary Potter Nursing Home, the 76-bed Loreto Home of Compassion and Forrest Community Services.

The Forrest Centre is also part of the Wagga Palliative Care Alliance. Established in 2013, the Alliance aims to ensure patients experience an integrated service as they approach the end of their life. The Alliance includes the Murrumbidgee Local Health District, the Forrest Centre, Murrumbidgee Primary Health Network and Calvary Health Care Riverina.

Media: Sarah Vasey
Phone: 02 6921 1622 or 0432 230 003
Email: sarah.vasey@parliament.nsw.gov.au