

A charter for children and young people affected by a life-limiting condition

We want to provide children and young people with life-limiting conditions the highest quality of care and support. We wish to help you live as well as possible throughout your life.

The health team's commitments. We will:

- Treat you with compassion, respect, and dignity.
- Respect your privacy and confidentiality at all times.
- Do our best to manage your pain and other symptoms to ensure you are as comfortable as possible.
- Give you access to a health team that supports and works with you in an open, honest and co-ordinated manner, and builds a care plan around your unique needs.
- Talk with you, your family and the people who are important to you as often as needed about your diagnosis, prognosis, treatment options, and care. This may include family meetings with your health team(s).
- Where possible enable you to be cared for in your place of choice including 'short break' and respite care at a time and place suitable to you and your family.
- Provide emotional, psychological, cultural and spiritual support in line with you and your family's wishes, including support for other family members.
- Help sustain your social connections in the community including recreation, school and employment.
- Support transitions in care and your family in their grief and bereavement.

The child and their family's commitments. We will:

- Let our health team know if our child is experiencing symptoms that are impacting their wellbeing, such as pain, discomfort, or emotional concerns.
- Let our health team know if we need information, direction and support.
- Treat our health team with respect and courtesy.
- Seek advice if we are uncertain of our child's treatment options.
- Participate in our child's care to the best of our ability. This includes the mutually rewarding task of assisting our health team in the care of our child.
- Let our health team know our child's and family's wishes about the remainder of our child's life. This may include:
 - » The content of our child's advance care plan including goals and wishes
 - » Our preferred place of care and death
 - » Who our child and/or the family's preferred spokesperson(s) is.

This charter defines "child" as a person below the age of 18 years. A "young person" is any person aged 13 years or older. When referring to "child", the charter also includes young people within its scope.

Developed by the Palliative Care Working Group of the Statewide Child and Youth Network in collaboration with Xavier Children's Support Network, Hummingbird House and St Vincent's Private Hospital, Brisbane. Endorsed by the Queensland Clinical Senate and Health Consumers Queensland.

Adapted from the Queensland Clinical Senate *A Charter for Care for Adult Patients at the End of Life, Together for Short Lives Charter and the Trieste Charter.*