

# Palliative Medicine Specialist Outpatient and Community Consultancy leads to Improved Quality of Life

ANZSPM Comment for

## **MSAC Public Summary Document**

**Application No. 1159 – Palliative Care Consultation Items**

ANZSPM believes there are several high quality trials that demonstrate palliative medicine specialist outpatient & community consultant involvement leads to improved quality of life, improved survival, reduced health care costs, decreased hospital admissions and reduced emergency department visits for palliative care patients. (1-8) It further believes that changes to MBS item numbers as detailed in their submission to the Australian Government Medical Services Advisory Committee, by the Department of Health, will increase access to and involvement of Palliative Medicine Specialists, and will lead to health care improvements as detailed above.

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8. Smith S, Brick A, O'Hara S, Normand C. Evidence on the cost and cost-effectiveness of palliative care: a literature review. *Palliative medicine*. 2014 Feb;28(2):130-50. PubMed PMID: 23838378. Epub 2013/07/11.