

Brad Carter

## END OF LIFE CHOICE

The Royal District Nursing Service play a vital role in supporting patients nearing the end of life whether it be palliative care for disease, or age related. This wonderful group of people make it possible, if it is the patient's wish, to stay within the comfort of their home and familiar surroundings. They are able to assess, communicate with the patient's doctor, and assist making decisions in relation to the dietary needs, and the general well being of the patient.

My father at age seventy nine had terminal prostate cancer and was treated at home until the last weeks of his life.

My mother aged ninety five, survived my father by twenty four years, and resided in her home until five months before her death.

If it wasn't for the Royal District Nursing Service this would have been near impossible. Their role is supportive, and can be uplifting whilst the patient comes to the acceptance and realization of the end of life.

The Government should ensure that funding to this group is raised so that cost cutting is not required....they are an essential part of the community providing a necessary service.

When my mother moved into care it was because she knew it was time. She was type 1 diabetic for over thirty years, and had many health issues, suffering high blood pressure, macular degeneration, and diverticulitis. She later suffered a broken hip, and fractured pelvis. She was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer, and lesions on her liver. She said that she had lived five years too long, but at the same time had a great will to live.

It was in her nature to fight for survival, she was an inspiration, but in the last weeks of her life she had had enough. She suffered and wanted out. Laws should be in place to help patients such as my mother to die with dignity, to be assisted with the right people to handle such situations for the comfort of those in need.