



Government of **Western Australia**
South Metropolitan Health Service
Fiona Stanley Fremantle Hospitals Group



14 April 2026

To Whom It may Concern

**Re: LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR MADDA FUNDING SUBMISSION
TO THE WESTERN AUSTRALIAN DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

I am pleased to provide this letter of support for Mesothelioma and Dust Diseases Australia (MADDA) and its funding submission to the Western Australian Department of Health.

As Head of Service, Medical Oncology at Fiona Stanley Hospital, I am directly involved in the care of patients diagnosed with mesothelioma and other complex cancers. Mesothelioma is a rare, aggressive, and incurable disease that presents significant clinical, psychosocial, and system-level challenges. Patients often require coordinated care across multiple specialties, including oncology, respiratory medicine, palliative care, and allied health services.

In Western Australia, there are currently no dedicated mesothelioma support nurses or care navigators within the public health system. As a result, patients and their families are often left to navigate a highly complex and fragmented system during an already distressing time. This gap in care is significant and impacts both patient outcomes and the efficiency of service delivery.

MADDA provides a critical and highly valued service that addresses this unmet need. Their nurse-led support model offers care navigation, patient advocacy, and psychosocial support, helping individuals and families better understand their diagnosis, access appropriate services, and make informed decisions throughout their care journey. From a clinical perspective, this support enhances coordination of care, improves patient experience, and helps ensure that patients are connected to the right services at the right time.

Importantly, this model also contributes to more efficient use of health system resources. By supporting patients to better manage symptoms, access appropriate services early, and avoid unnecessary escalation of care, services such as those provided by MADDA have the potential to reduce unplanned hospital presentations and improve overall system flow.

Western Australia continues to experience a disproportionately high burden of mesothelioma, with incidence rates significantly above the national average. This further reinforces the need for targeted, disease-specific support services.

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MADDA is seeking \$250,000 per annum in ongoing funding to expand its specialist nursing support service and continue its advocacy and awareness programs. From a clinical standpoint, I strongly support this request. Investment in this service represents a practical and evidence-informed approach to improving patient care and addressing a clear gap within the current system.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W. Lam', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

A/Prof Wei-Sen Lam MBBS FRACP MHA

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