

His Honour Kevin Sleight
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**LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR MADDA FUNDING SUBMISSION
TO THE WESTERN AUSTRALIAN DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

I am writing this letter in support of the funding submission of Mesothelioma and Dust Diseases Australia (MADDA) to the W.A. Department of Health.

In October 2025 my older brother, Francis Leslie Sleight (Frank) received a preliminary diagnosis that he had mesothelioma. He was aged 86, living in a retirement village (Parkland Villas) in Halls Head, with his wife Barbara (aged 84). He was suffering acute pain in his spine from a metastasis, rapidly losing weight and was severely fatigued. He was prescribed morphine and other medication by his GP, but this did not provide any significant relief. Frank was seen by Dr Ranjan Skrestha, Respiratory Physician, and Dr Wei-Sen Lam, Oncologist at the Fiona Stanley Hospital. He was formally diagnosed with an aggressive form of mesothelioma and with a limited life expectancy. He elected palliative care at home.

During this difficult time I provided support to my brother and his wife, including transporting them to specialist appointments and treatment. As a former personal injury lawyer, and later as a Judge of the District Court (I am now retired), I was aware that persons suffering from major illnesses require considerable assistance in coordinating and meeting their medical needs. I decided to contact MADDA for support and guidance for my brother. A qualified nurse from MADDA immediately attended Frank's home and provided us with advice of what to expect as the illness progressed and what support services were available. Most importantly, MADDA made contact with the Fiona Stanley Hospital and through the advocacy of MADDA we were able to expedite scans, a biopsy and specialist appointments. As it happened, the expedition of these services was critical as Frank's condition deteriorated rapidly and very soon he was in too much pain to attend any further appointments at Fiona Stanley Hospital.

Whenever Frank's wife or I were uncertain as to what support was needed we had the comfort that we could call MADDA for advice. On occasions this occurred out of hours.

Eventually Frank's condition deteriorated to the point that he was admitted to the St John of God Murdoch Hospice and he passed away on 3 February 2026. MADDA continues to be available to provide support to Frank's wife following his death.

MADDA's nurse-led support service provided invaluable assistance to my brother, his wife, and myself during the difficult time of Frank's illness. Their compassion, guidance and advocacy removed much of our anxiety as we navigated the various arms of medical services.

I understand MADDA is seeking \$250,000 per annum of ongoing funding to expand its specialist nursing support service and continue its advocacy and awareness programs. Based upon our experience, I strongly support this request. No family should have to face mesothelioma without the kind of support that MADDA provides.

Yours sincerely,



Kevin Sleight

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