



Media Release
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Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee

Chair: Aaron Harper MP
Parliament House Brisbane

Earle Haven report tabled

The report of the committee's investigation into the closure of the Earle Haven aged care facility was tabled in the Queensland Parliament today.

The committee's investigation followed the sudden and unprecedented closure of two residential aged care facilities at the Earle Haven Retirement Village at Nerang on 11 July 2019, which saw almost 70 elderly and vulnerable residents removed from Earle Haven by Queensland Ambulance Service officers.

Committee chair, Mr Aaron Harper MP, told the Parliament that the sudden closure "should never have happened".

"The Earle Haven debacle has highlighted the disastrous consequences that occur when a nursing home suddenly ceases providing care to its residents", Mr Harper said.

"The committee has taken the bold step of making recommendations directly to the Federal government."

"These recommendations call on the Federal government to improve its regulation of the aged care sector in order to prevent any future similar sudden closures of residential aged care facilities", Mr Harper said.

Mr Harper said that the closure came after regulators gave People Care 'a string of second chances' over many years to correct problems with the facility.

"Closer attention also needs to be paid to operating conditions in nursing homes and to ensure that residential aged care providers have proper disaster plans in place in case their residents ever need to be evacuated at short notice", Mr Harper said.

Both the approved provider for the facility – People Care Pty Ltd - and the facility operator – HelpStreet – come in for strong criticism in the committee's report.

Further background:

The committee conducted an investigation into matters at the Earle Haven aged care facility in Nerang following the emergency evacuation of all patients from that facility on 11 July 2019.

The closure followed a business dispute between People Care and HelpStreet, a company that was engaged to provide services at Earle Haven.

As part of its inquiries into this issue, the committee received submissions from key stakeholders and then held three days of hearings. This included two days of hearings on the Gold Coast where the committee heard from former Earle Haven staff members and family members of former residents. The committee also heard from Mr Arthur Miller, Managing Director of People Care Pty Ltd.

Copies of the committee report are available from the Table Office and from the parliament's online Tabled Paper's Database.

For media comment: please contact the committee Chair, Aaron Harper MP, on (07) 4766 3100

For further information: please phone the committee secretariat on (07) 3553 6626

Email: health@parliament.qld.gov.au or visit the [committee's website](#)

Committee Members

Aaron Harper MP, Member for Thuringowa

Mark McArdle MP, Member for Caloundra

Michael Berkman MP, Member for Maiwar

Martin Hunt MP, Member for Nicklin

Barry O'Rourke MP, Member for Rockhampton

Joan Pease MP, Member for Lytton