



Speech by

Mark Ryan

MEMBER FOR MORAYFIELD

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PALLIATIVE CARE

Mr RYAN (Morayfield—ALP) (11.59 am): Palliative care is a form of medical care that focuses on support for people facing serious and complex illnesses. Both hospice and non-hospice based palliative care provides care and support to those with life-limiting illnesses. Broadly, palliative care provides, among other things, relief from suffering, measures for dealing with physical and psychological distress, psychological and spiritual care, a support system to improve quality of life, and assistance for the individual's family and friends. Her Excellency Quentin Bryce, Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia and patron of Palliative Care Australia, describes palliative care as, '... an assurance to our society at the deepest level that we are honouring our value for the worth and dignity of every human being.'

I am pleased to say that the Queensland government, through a variety of programs, provides support to palliative care providers. One such provider is Karuna Hospice Services. Karuna provides free home hospice services for people with life-limiting illnesses in the Brisbane and Caboolture regions. Its services include 24-hour on-call nursing, counselling, spiritual care, family support, free loans of nursing equipment and a 12-month bereavement program. Also, Karuna operates a free Queensland-wide information telephone service that provides information, referral and support services to Queenslanders.

Interestingly, the word Karuna means 'compassion' in ancient Sanskrit. In my view, there is no better description than compassion for the services provided by Karuna and other palliative care providers. The valuable work of Karuna and other palliative care providers is important and I trust those providers will continue to receive financial support from the state government.