




Speech By
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ADJOURNMENT

National Palliative Care Week

 **Ms HOWARD** (Ipswich—ALP) (6.09 pm): It is my pleasure to speak about the upcoming National Palliative Care Week and in particular Ipswich Hospice Care. Palliative care is not something that we like to think or even talk about, but we know that around 70 per cent of Australians want to die in their own home and the reality is that few realise this. A good death gives people dignity, choice and support to address their physical, personal, social and spiritual needs.

Nursing homes and hospitals are identified as a person's least preferred place to die, yet over the past 100 years home deaths have declined and hospital and residential care deaths have increased. The facts are that 54 per cent of people die in hospitals and 32 per cent in residential care while only about 14 per cent of people die at home. These figures show that death is an increasingly institutionalised and medicalised experience.

In my electorate of Ipswich we are fortunate to have a wonderful community based hospice, Ipswich Hospice Care, which was officially opened by the Hon. Bill Hayden, a storied Ipswich citizen and former governor-general of Australia, in 1994. Ipswich Hospice Care has been a constant and comforting site for Ipswich people since its opening. It is a proudly community owned and managed charitable organisation. It is nationally accredited and it has a very experienced palliative care team. There are seven beds in the hospice and it provides a very high quality end-of-life care. I would like to take this opportunity to praise all the members of the Ipswich Hospice Care management committee, led by well-known and loved Ipswich local Peter McMahon, as well as all staff and volunteers, led by general manager Paul Brew and his extraordinary team.

Palliative care is not all they provide at Ipswich Hospice Care as they partner with neighbouring Hilda's House, which provides bereavement support services to the wider community. It offers one-to-one support, drop-in and peer support groups for both adults and children. The hospice also works on a no-set-fee basis. This means that families in a vulnerable position and possibly desperate for care can ensure that their loved ones are receiving the highest quality care.

I encourage all my colleagues to get involved with National Palliative Care Week, aka hospice week. This year hospice week will run from 21 to 28 May with the message: 'You matter. Your care matters. Palliative care can make a difference.' In keeping with this, Ipswich Hospice Care will be hosting a Turn Ipswich Purple Day on 26 May with the aim of spreading awareness of palliative care to the community and making sure that the message is spread to those most in need.

Ipswich Hospice Care is one of the most valued organisations in my community. Through hard work, drive and passion they provide reassurance to Ipswich people that no matter what time of life a person may be in they can rest easy knowing that they will be cared for in an environment as close to their own home environment as possible.