



Speech By  
**Aaron Harper**


**MEMBER FOR THURINGOWA**

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Record of Proceedings, 14 February 2019

**HEALTH, COMMUNITIES, DISABILITY SERVICES AND DOMESTIC AND  
FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION COMMITTEE**

**Issues Paper**

 **Mr HARPER** (Thuringowa—ALP) (10.14 am): I lay upon the table of the House issue paper No. 3 of the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee.

*Tabled paper:* Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee: Paper No. 3, 56th Parliament, February 2019—Inquiry into aged care, end-of-life and palliative care and voluntary assisted dying [179](#).

This is an issues paper for our inquiry into aged care, end-of-life care, palliative care and voluntary assisted dying. These are very significant issues for Queensland. We will be considering the delivery of a range of services that our most vulnerable and dearest citizens depend on every day. These are aged-care services provided to many senior citizens, the palliative care provided to people of all ages with terminal illnesses and end-of-life care provided to those in the final stages of dying. These are critical areas where the policies and priorities of government can profoundly affect the quality of life and dignity of vulnerable people every day. The problems affecting aged care are being highlighted by the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety. We look forward to working cooperatively with commissioners Tracey and Briggs during our Queensland inquiry.

The committee will also consider the views of Queenslanders on supporting and legislating for voluntary assisted dying in this state. This is an issue where there will be very passionate and divergent views held on both sides of the debate, and we look forward to hearing from Queenslanders. It is also an issue of particular importance for our medical practitioners, nurses and other healthcare professionals. Our inquiry clearly has implications for all Queenslanders. I urge all honourable members to join me in encouraging Queenslanders to get involved in this inquiry. I commend the issues paper to the House.