




Speech By
Aaron Harper

MEMBER FOR THURINGOWA

Record of Proceedings, 10 September 2020

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

Report

 **Mr HARPER** (Thuringowa—ALP) (10.18 am): I lay upon the table of the House the Health Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee's 2019-20 annual report No. 41.

Tabled paper: Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee: Report No. 41, 56th Parliament—Annual Report 2019-20 [1614](#).

I have been very humbled to chair this committee over this term of government. This report provides a summary of what was yet another very busy year for the health committee. Our work in 2019-20 included 106 hours of evidence from 452 witnesses, at 38 public hearings and briefings; inquiries into two bills, being the Health Transparency Bill 2019 and the Health Legislation Amendment Bill 2019; oversight of the health complaints management system; a public works inquiry into the Wynnum and Mermaid Waters ambulance station projects; a substantial investigation into the closure of the Earle Haven residential aged-care facility, conducted with counsel assisting; the completion of the inquiry into aged care, end-of-life and palliative care; and, for the first time, we asked Queenslanders their views on voluntary assisted dying. We also tabled 20 reports and papers, making a total of 121 recommendations to this House.

I thank all members of the health committee—the members for Maiwar, Nicklin, Lytton and Rockhampton—but I want to put on record the contribution of our deputy chair, the member for Caloundra, who attended his final meeting as a committee member on Monday. We have both been on the health committee for five years. It has been a long five years. We might not agree on everything, but we always try to find a compromise. I thank the deputy chair.

This House would not function so effectively without the contribution of its committees. Committee work can be time consuming but can also be some of the most rewarding work we get to do as members. Committee members sacrifice a lot of their own time to do this work on top of their electorate and other duties in this House, and often at some considerable personal cost to their home life. I thank the entire secretariat for their amazing support and work to get our reports completed.

Finally, I would like to clarify that I only mentioned my former career as a paramedic and ambulance officer 17 times during the committee's public meetings this year, not at every hearing as some members have alleged. They will hear more of that today. I commend this report to the House.