




Speech By
Aaron Harper

MEMBER FOR THURINGOWA

Record of Proceedings, 14 September 2021

VOLUNTARY ASSISTED DYING BILL

 **Mr HARPER** (Thuringowa—ALP) (4.34 pm): It will come as no surprise that I will be speaking against the amendment. Quite clearly, the Katter party does not understand how palliative care is funded in this state. I would ask its members to read the palliative care report that we did. I will quote from it, because the Katter party should understand that palliative care is not just a state responsibility. Recommendation 53 states—

The committee recommends that the Australian Government increase the amount available through subacute funding for the delivery of palliative care to address the unmet need for services.

Recommendation 54 states—

The committee recommends that the Queensland Government increase its funding—

And they did, by \$171 million. Recommendation 56 states—

The committee recommends that the Australian Government properly fund palliative care and end-of-life care services provided to residents living in private homes or in residential aged care facilities so residents can access the clinical care, nursing and specialist palliative care services they require. This will involve providing greater flexibility in the home care package system and a redesign of the Aged Care Funding Instrument to incorporate funding for palliative and end-of-life care.

There is a whole chapter that unpacks what the federal government does in terms of funding palliative care. We have moved on this. Our Premier has moved on this with a funding commitment of \$171 million, to be at an amount of \$247 million by 2024-25. The Katters have a relative in the Australian parliament. I suggest they read the report. This is what makes me angry. The Katters did not turn up to any of the hearings in their own electorates. They do not understand how the funding is done. They need to read the report and get a clinical understanding of how the funding is actually allocated in this state. Actually bothering to turn up to a public hearing would be a great start.