




Speech By
Hon. Yvette D'Ath

MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE

Record of Proceedings, 18 November 2021

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Palliative Care

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (9.54 am): Delivering improved palliative care services for Queenslanders with a life-limiting illness is a major priority for the Palaszczuk government. We are investing an extra \$171 million over five years on a Palliative Care Reform Program to bring improved end-of-life care to Queenslanders no matter where they live. This includes \$54.8 million for non-government service providers in regional, rural and remote Queensland to deliver more palliative care services.

I can advise that submissions are now open to the non-government sector to apply for a share of this \$54.8 million in new funding which will assist people to be cared for, and die, in their place of choice. This is about ensuring Queenslanders with life-limiting illnesses can spend the precious time they have left in a comfortable, familiar environment surrounded by their friends and family. I have nothing but admiration for Queensland's dedicated palliative care workforce and the outstanding job they do delivering care to some of our most vulnerable. That is why I am encouraging all eligible NGOs to get their submissions in for a share of this new funding so that Queenslanders will have more palliative care opportunities in regional, rural and remote areas.

Consultation with stakeholders on our Palliative Care Reform Program to develop a new palliative and end-of-life strategy is ongoing as we work with the sector to strengthen and enhance services. This will include seeking input from: people living with life-limiting conditions; First Nations peoples and communities; people living in rural and remote areas; older people; people living with disability; carers; and the bereaved. We will listen to and work with all stakeholders to provide Queenslanders with improved equity of access and choice to palliative care services.

I also acknowledge the recent Queensland recipients of Palliative Care Australia's National Palliative Care Awards. This year there were four recipients: Hummingbird House which in collaboration with Children's Health Queensland Hospital and Health Services Paediatric Palliative Care Services received an award for innovation in palliative care; Dr Graham Grove who was awarded emerging leader; Dr Claudia Virdun, emerging researcher; and the recipient for the most outstanding volunteer, Mr Keri Wassenaar. These are proud Queenslanders, delivering important services to our most vulnerable. We thank you for your services.