



Speech By  
**Deb Frecklington**


**MEMBER FOR NANANGO**

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Record of Proceedings, 16 November 2023

**ADJOURNMENT**

**In-Home Palliative Care; Kilcoy, Road Safety**

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (6.01 pm): It is everyone's hope that if our loved ones need palliative care at the end of their lives that this service is readily available. Palliative care is about enabling a person to live in dignity, peace and comfort in their final months and days. It aims to achieve the best quality of life for patients and their families. I thank each and every palliative care nurse for the work that they do. It has come to my attention, however, that in the South Burnett region it is not necessarily always the case that we have this service available. I am deeply concerned about reports that in-home palliative care is simply not accessible. There is a waitlist. In fact, I have been told by one patient who is battling cancer but who is not palliative, that they should put their name down on a list for palliative care now as the list is so long that they may not be able to receive the care in time if the focus of their illness is no longer on cure. Of course, that is deeply concerning.

I heard of a disturbing case recently where a gentleman needing palliative care had literally slipped between the cracks. I wrote an urgent letter to the health minister about this terrible situation, and the care he had been needing for three months suddenly and thankfully arrived on his doorstep, so I thank the health minister for that. While his family and I are grateful for that swift action once it was brought to the government's attention, this situation should never have occurred in the first place. I pass on my sincerest condolences to the gentleman's family, as the gentleman has now passed away, thankfully in peace in his final days.

I recently asked the health minister a question on notice about in-home palliative care in the South Burnett. Over the past five years, on average 139 people have required in-home palliative care. On the surface it appears that all is well, but in reality we are very concerned about what is actually happening for patients who cannot access in-home palliative care. We have local, independent nurses who can provide the services but who are not utilised, as the Queensland Health in-home palliative care contract is with Blue Care. I am calling now for the government to review how the system is working, particularly within the South Burnett.

On another issue, I thank the Kilcoy Chamber of Commerce, in particular president Lee Robinson and his lovely wife, Julie Robinson, and also Cameron Smart and Councillor Kylee Isidro, who joined me today here in parliament where we are advocating for the government and the Department of Transport and Main Roads to listen to our concerns in relation to road safety within the Kilcoy business district.