




Speech By
Hon. Shannon Fentiman

MEMBER FOR WATERFORD

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

National Palliative Care Week

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance Services and Minister for Women) (10.08 am): This week is National Palliative Care Week. It is such an important opportunity for us to come together and highlight the importance of compassionate end-of-life care. It is also an opportunity for us to celebrate all of the important work that the palliative care sector does for Queenslanders with life-limiting illnesses in profoundly difficult times. Those working in palliative care organisations dedicate their lives to ensure people are comfortable and dignified in their final days.

We know these organisations are under pressure. Demand for palliative care services continues to increase at the same time that operating costs continue to rise. Across the state, palliative care NGOs have told us that they need support. That is why this National Palliative Care Week the Miles Labor government is stepping up. Because of our progressive coal royalties, I am proud to announce today that we will be providing an additional \$4.1 million in funding to eight palliative care organisations to ensure they can continue providing vitally important services to vulnerable Queenslanders. Organisations like the Toowoomba Hospice Association, the Katie Rose Cottage Hospice on the Sunshine Coast and the Wesley Mission's Hummingbird House on Brisbane's north side will be among the beneficiaries.

This \$4.1 million investment is the first phase of our review that our government has undertaken into palliative care funding. The first phase is aimed at achieving funding parity between services based on occupied bed days or services delivered in recognition of the different workloads organisations face. The second phase of work will focus on delivering a long-term, sustainable funding model that allows these services to plan for the future and continue delivering care in their communities.

I am so proud to be a member of a government that is prioritising funding for compassionate and dignified end-of-life care—again only possible because of our progressive coal royalties. We know all of that funding is at risk if the LNP win government in October and slash our progressive coal royalties. I want to send my best wishes to everyone working in the palliative care sector this National Palliative Care Week, and on behalf of the entire Miles Labor government I want to thank them for everything they do every day.