

**Question on Notice**  
**No. 339**  
**Asked on 7 May 2014**

MRS SMITH asked the Minister for Health (MR SPRINGBORG)-

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise how the LNP Government is delivering improved palliative care services in the electorate of Mount Ommaney, and how does this compare to the previous government record?

ANSWER:

I thank the Honourable Member for Mount Ommaney for her question.

Shortly after the election of the LNP Government, new and recurrent funding of \$1.9 million was announced to support the provision of quality palliative care within the Mount Ommaney electorate and closely surrounding district. The funds are managed by the Metro South Hospital and Health Service with the palliative care service delivery implemented primarily through the Metro South Palliative Care Service (MSPCS). Specifically, the funds have been used to establish:

1. a public private partnership between Canossa Private Hospital and MSPCS that provides six public palliative care beds in the Palliative Care Unit, Canossa Hospital. Canossa Private Hospital is responsible for accommodation and supportive nursing care and MSPCS provides specialist staff inclusive of a medical consultant in palliative care, specialist palliative care nurses and some allied health staff. The beds were opened on 1 April 2013 and occupancy rates for the first year were over 90%; and
2. a specialist community-based palliative care service for the Mount Ommaney electorate and closely surrounding district. This service provides outpatient clinics at the Canossa Private Hospital and Corinda Palliative Care Centre (previously Corinda Community Health Centre), home visiting and a 24 hour seven days per week on-call telephone service staffed by MSPCS nurses and doctors. This service works closely with general practitioners, domiciliary nursing services and other generalist healthcare providers.

In addition to this new funding, MSPCS also operates a specialist consultative palliative care service for residential aged care facilities that encompasses the facilities within the Mt Ommaney electorate.

Finally, following the recommendations of the LNP Government, consequent upon the Parliamentary Committee Inquiry into Palliative Care Services and Home and Community Services in Queensland, the MSPCS is investigating innovative ways to increase public awareness and uptake of advance care planning for end of life care for residents with advanced progressive chronic disease and other life-limiting illnesses.

Collectively, these specialist services help palliative care patients living in the Mt Ommaney electorate to receive the right care, at the right time, in the right place.

Under the previous government there had been six public palliative care beds at Canossa Hospital, also in collaboration with MSPCS, but only in a short term partnership. The beds were transferred to the Queen Elizabeth II Hospital in 2012 leaving a significant palliative care service gap in the Mt Ommaney electorate. The recurrent funding provided by the LNP Government has gone some way to fill this gap. Under the previous government, MSPCS provided some community-based specialist palliative care services as well as the service to the residential and aged facilities.