

Question on Notice

No. 1649

Asked on 17 October 2019

MS F SIMPSON asked the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services (HON DR S MILES) –

QUESTION

With reference to Question on Notice No. 1352 regarding palliative care expenditure throughout hospital and health services in Queensland and the Minister's answer advising that he could not answer accurately as it was a significant task and would divert resources away from front line services—

Will the Minister advise how the Department of Health ensures funding is sufficient to ensure quality palliative care services are accessible to all terminally ill Queenslanders wherever they live if the department does not measure the resources it applies for this purpose?

ANSWER

The Department of Health, as System Manager, allocates funding to Hospital and Health Services (HHSs) on an annual basis as reported in Service Delivery Statements. The allocations are based on the expected services to be delivered by the HHS, including emergency care, specialist clinics, ambulatory care, admitted patient care (acute and subacute and non-acute).

While the Department of Health determines the overarching allocation based on the estimated demand for all services, the HHSs as the providers of the care make operational decisions to determine how they locally resource and provide those services.

Where the Department of Health has specifically invested in a service model, that investment and its intended outcomes is identified in the Service Agreement, and individually monitored. For example, with respect to palliative care, the investments associated with this Government's commitment of \$17 million for community-based palliative care services, with a focus on service delivery in areas outside of South East Queensland, will be specifically monitored within the Service Agreements.