

Question on Notice

No. 228

Asked on 11 March 2021

MS S BOLTON ASKED THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND AMBULANCE SERVICES (HON Y D'ATH) –

QUESTION

Will the Minister advise when the government will introduce a needs-based funding model for specialist palliative care, including packages of care instead of time limited funding models, as per recommendations the Committee Inquiry into Palliative Care?

ANSWER

The provision of compassionate, high-quality and accessible palliative care for persons at their end of life is a fundamental right for the Queensland community.

In response to the Parliamentary Committee's *Report No. 33, Aged Care, End-of-Life and Palliative Care*, the Queensland Government committed \$171 million additional investment through to and including 2025-26, to support initiatives such as the development of a Strategy and workforce plan, home-based care delivered through non-government organisations and public education and sector advocacy. This funding builds on the ongoing investment by the Queensland Government to the palliative care system.

The investment of the additional funding will be directed to key areas under a new Palliative and End-of-Life Care Strategy. The Strategy will guide local service delivery to support Queenslanders to have better access to high-quality palliative care and achieve their goals for care at the end-of-life.

A workforce plan that strengthens specialist palliative care delivered out of Hospital and Health Services is a critical deliverable under the Strategy. The workforce plan will be informed by identified models of care, service priority locations for service, and expected demand.

As we continue to develop the new Strategy, the Department will consult and engage with consumers, stakeholders and specialist clinicians to ensure that Queenslanders not only have access to high-quality palliative care, but achieve their goals for care at the end-of-life.

The Government's election commitments for palliative care over the next five years to 2025-26 will underpin an increase in the volume and quality of services. These services will be person-centred and flexible, focused on the needs of the individual and the local community. A key initiative of the investment will be the implementation of innovative services that use technologies to promote equity of access to palliative care for all Queenslanders, such as increased and better use of telehealth and other service delivery models to deliver care to support Queenslanders living in regional, rural and remote areas.

Existing palliative care services are delivered in a range of settings including public and private hospitals, hospices, residential aged care facilities and private residences (home-based care).

Queensland Health also provides funding to non-government organisations to deliver hospice services and community-based palliative care services in individuals' homes.