

Question on Notice

No. 816

Asked on 16 June 2021

MR J MADDEN ASKED THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND AMBULANCE SERVICES (HON Y D'ATH) –

QUESTION

With reference to Ipswich being the fastest growing Local Government Area in Queensland—

Will the Minister outline how State Government palliative care services have been improved for Ipswich residents since the election of the Palaszczuk Government in 2015 and also outline what palliative care services are provided by the Federal Government and not for profit groups for Ipswich residents?

ANSWER

The Australian Government and Queensland Government jointly fund palliative care through public hospital funding, with the Queensland Government being responsible for the delivery of specialist public palliative care services, which can include community palliative care, inpatient and outpatient services, and providing support to primary health care providers.

From 2015, palliative care services provided by West Moreton Hospital and Health Service have expanded in response to the growing population, as well as adopting new models of care focused on providing services in patient's homes and integrating services across the hospital, hospice, community services and residential aged care facilities. Palliative care services provided by West Moreton Hospital and Health Service, operating out of Ipswich Hospital include inpatient services, the Palliative Care Hospital in the Home Service, and the Palliative Care Outpatients Program. Total expenditure for palliative care by West Moreton Hospital and Health Service from 2013-14 to 2020-21 is approximately \$52.2 million.

Recent palliative care initiatives implemented include an increased workforce to provide care in the community, development of new models of care, development of the Palliative Care Hospital in the Home programme, expansion of palliative care outpatient clinics and the development of telehealth services for patients in rural areas. West Moreton Hospital and Health Service also established a West Moreton Care at the End of Life Collaborative, which aims to develop partnerships across government and non-government organisations to optimise systems, processes and outcomes for people with a life-limiting illness and promote the development of a compassionate community in West Moreton.

The Queensland Government also provides operational funding to non-government organisations that deliver hospice services, community-based palliative care services, as well training, information, and awareness services, under Service Agreements with the Department of Health. One of these organisations is Ipswich Hospice.

From 2015-16 to 2020-21, the Queensland Government has provided over \$7 million to Ipswich Hospice to support the delivery of clinical palliative care services. The Ipswich Hospice has seven inpatient beds, and the average annual admission rate has increased by 25 per cent between 2015 and 2021. The Ipswich Hospice also provides a Community Nurse Practitioner Service to integrate care across hospital, hospice and home-based services in the West Moreton Region, and a grief and bereavement service.

The Queensland Government's commitment to new additional funding of \$171 million from 2021-22 to 2025-26 in palliative care will complement and build on ongoing existing investment in the Queensland palliative care system through Hospital and Health Services and contracted non-government organisations.