

## **Question on Notice**

**No. 1251**

**Asked on 8 November 2022**

**MR L MILLAR** ASKED THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND AMBULANCE SERVICES (HON Y D'ATH)—

### **QUESTION**

With reference to the latest census results showing that over one-fifth of the population of Winton is now aged over 65 and given the lack of alternatives for Winton's aged citizens—

Will the Minister advise when the number of aged care beds at the Winton Multipurpose Health Centre will be increased from the current allocation of six?

### **ANSWER**

The Winton Multipurpose Health Service (MPHS) currently has six purpose-built, permanent, high care residential beds and a further three allocated low care residential beds.

Although the MPHS is funded by the Commonwealth and Queensland Governments through a collaborative funding arrangement, funding more aged care beds so that local people have the ability to remain in the Winton community is fundamentally a Commonwealth Government responsibility.

Any future decision for additional aged care beds in Winton is subject to funding availability and allocation of places through a competitive process, administered by the Commonwealth Government.

As part of the funding arrangement between the Commonwealth and Queensland Governments, a flexible care subsidy is made available to the Winton MPHS for providing Aged Care Services due to the region's remoteness. This is combined with funding for health services from the Queensland Government and allows the best use of limited aged and healthcare resources.

Under this arrangement, the Winton MPHS receives funding for nine flexible aged care places which allow the facility to offer planned temporary, as well as emergent, respite arrangements.

Expansion of this program does carry some uncertainty at this stage due to proposed structural changes by the Commonwealth Government in how aged care services can be delivered in regional, rural and remote locations, in response to the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety. The Department of Health Queensland continues to work with the Commonwealth on its reforms and any future opportunities that may strengthen and supply more aged care services to rural and remote areas like Winton.