

Question on Notice

No. 343

Asked on 31 March 2022

MR R MOLHOEK ASKED THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND AMBULANCE SERVICES (HON Y D'ATH)—

QUESTION

With reference to Report No. 33, 56th Parliament - Aged care, end-of-life and palliative care, tabled on Tuesday 24 March 2020 by the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee—

Will the Minister advise the Queensland Government's actions to date regarding recommendations 46 through 50 (inclusive), including any steps taken to achieve the recommendations made by the Committee?

ANSWER

The findings and recommendations in Report No. 33, 56th Parliament - Aged care, end-of-life and palliative care highlighted an opportunity for systemic reform of the palliative care sector.

In response to the recommendations in Report 33 the Palaszczuk Government has committed an additional \$171 million towards palliative care, from 2021-22 to 2025-26, to be implemented across a range of activities under what is collectively referred to as the Palliative Care Reform Program. The Program includes:

- the development of a new Palliative and End-of-Life Care Strategy;
- investing in community-based services to improve and promote choice for care at end of life through increased home-based and after-hours care, focusing on regional, rural and remote service provision outside of South East Queensland;
- growing and investing in Queensland's specialist palliative care workforce and developing a new workforce plan;
- digital and telehealth solutions for consumers
- supporting practitioners; and
- delivering public education and advocacy.

The Queensland Government has already taken action to address recommendations about providing care closer to home and expanding and strengthening the palliative care system for Queenslanders, including in regional, rural and remote areas.

In November 2021, the Department of Health released an open market Invitation-to-Offer to commission services from non-government providers to deliver community-based palliative care outside of South-East Queensland. The Invitation to Offer process closed on 27 January 2022 with the offers that were received now being considered by Queensland Health.

The Queensland Government is also committed to supporting the health and wellbeing of First Nations people and their families and will invest more than \$10 million over the next four years for targeted First Nations community-based palliative care services. Co-designed with the Queensland Aboriginal and Islander Health Council, and in consultation with First Nations stakeholders and consumers, this initiative will deliver new culturally and clinically appropriate care to support First Nations people and their loved ones during their end-of-life journey.

The Queensland Government is supporting the palliative care needs of people living in residential aged care facilities through participating in the Comprehensive Palliative Care in Aged Care measure by implementing the Specialist Palliative Care in Aged Care Project. This project focusses on building the capacity and capability of residential aged care facilities to provide high quality palliative care to residents and is jointly funded with the Commonwealth.

Other initiatives that support people to receive palliative care closer to home are the Specialist Palliative Rural Telehealth Service which delivers palliative care services in regional, rural and remote Queensland and the Paediatric Palliative Care Outreach Collaborative which delivers services for children in regional and remote areas.

To support the provision of palliative care services by health professionals in the local community Queensland Health is also delivering the PallConsult service. PallConsult provides secondary consultation and support 24 hours a day, seven days a week for health professionals. The service is designed to boost the ability of local healthcare teams to deliver patient-centred palliative care, especially in rural and remote parts of the State and will help enable people to access the right care, at the right time and in the setting of their choice.