

Question on Notice

No. 804

Asked on 15 June 2023

MR S BENNETT ASKED MINISTER FOR HEALTH, MENTAL HEALTH AND AMBULANCE SERVICES AND MINISTER FOR WOMEN (HON S FENTIMAN)—

QUESTION

Will the Minister advise (a) whether a Palliative Care facility with increased bed numbers will be part of the new Bundaberg Hospital and (b) is the Minister aware of plans to establish a Hospice or Palliative Care facility separate to the existing or new Bundaberg Hospital?

ANSWER

A dedicated palliative care unit with an increased number of beds will be located within one of the new Bundaberg Hospital's medical wards. The design of this space will be carefully considered to ensure the environment is appropriate for patients receiving palliative care, including access to an outdoor space. Rooms will be large enough to accommodate relatives or carers for overnight visits.

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). I am unaware of plans to establish a new Hospice or Palliative Care facility separate to the existing or new Bundaberg Hospital.

The Queensland Government has committed additional funding of \$171 million up to 2025-26 to expand and strengthen palliative care services for Queenslanders.

The Palliative and End-of-Life Care Strategy (Strategy) and the Queensland Health Specialist Palliative Care Workforce Plan (Workforce Plan) guide the investment of this funding and were released on 28 October 2022.

Approximately \$102 million of the \$171 million Government investment will be allocated to Hospital and Health Services to increase the specialist palliative care workforce. The workforce uplift in the Wide Bay Hospital and Health Service is planned to commence in the 2023-24 financial year.

As part of the \$171 million investment package, funding has also been allocated for community-based palliative care services in areas outside of South-East Queensland. Blue Care was successful in the tender process for the delivery of these services, with services becoming available in the Wide Bay Hospital and Health Service from 20 March 2023.