Question on Notice

No. 694

Asked on 4 June 2026

MS S BOLTON ASKED MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND AMBULANCE SERVICES (HON T NICHOLLS)—

QUESTION

With reference to the Fraser Coast being the latest palliative care hospice set to close due to a lack of sustainable state operational funding, and the federal government not directly funding daily operations—

Will the Minister advise (a) the annual state funding contributions for nursing provided to each of Queensland's hospices since 2020 (reported separately by year), (b) the number of beds per hospice, (c) whether funding for non-clinical respite beds in any other jurisdiction exceeds the level of funding available for Queensland hospices providing clinical beds and (d) the comparative costs of palliative hospice beds to hospital beds and to 'Hospital in the Home' beds in aged care facilities?

ANSWER

I reject the premise of the Member's question. I draw the Member's attention to public statements by the Fraser Coast Hospice thanking the Queensland Government for its financial contributions and the fact that the vast majority of the Hospice's operating costs have been met by Queensland Government funding. I further note that the former Federal Coalition Government provided significant funding to establish the Hospice, but that the Federal Labor Government has not provided any financial assistance to support ongoing operations.

In addition to hospice services provided by Queensland Health Hospitals and Health Services (HHSs), Queensland Health also provides a funding contribution to a number of palliative care non-government organisations (NGOs) to deliver community-based palliative care services.

Funding is provided for the provision of services and is not determined based on the organisation's nursing costs.

Community palliative care services may be provided in a person's home or in bed-based services. The number of beds an NGO hospice has is determined by the organisation and is not set by Queensland Health.

I am advised that Queensland Health does not have access to the funding values for non-clinical respite beds in other jurisdictions so is unable to draw this comparison.

Queries regarding the cost of residential aged care services are best directed to the Commonwealth Government who have primary responsibility for funding these services.

The relative costs of hospital beds and hospice beds vary depending on factors such as the type of care being provided and the occupancy rates. Direct comparisons are not able to be easily drawn.

Queensland Health regularly publishes details of funding to third party organisations on the Open Data portal website: www.data.qld.gov.au/organization/queensland-health in accordance with Queensland Government contract disclosure obligations.