



2020 Queensland Election Requirements for New Investment in Palliative Care

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What does a purpose-built palliative care system for all Queenslanders look like?

Palliative care is a recognised human right, which provides a holistic approach to improving the quality of life for terminally-ill people at all stages of life - from in utero to geriatric - that should be available from the day of diagnosis until death and beyond to bereavement support for loved ones.

Though many Queenslanders receive timely and high-quality palliative care, this care is not available to all. At present, access to palliative care for Queenslanders is a lottery based on where they live, their age, their illness, their culture and even the way their local Hospital and Health Service allocates its funding.

To address the critical shortages and gaps in palliative care for Queenslanders, Palliative Care Queensland, as the sector's peak body, is proposing new investment to create a purpose-built palliative care system that provides timely and high-quality care when and where Queenslanders need it.

This request for funding has been created together with AMA Queensland and representatives from the Queensland Specialist Palliative Care Medical Directors' Group as well as through regular consultation with communities from across the state. As a result, this funding request is truly representative of the needs of all Queenslanders from specialist health practitioners to carers of those approaching their end of life.

This funding proposal seeks to address the significant system challenges faced by the palliative care sector in Queensland. These challenges are identified by Reports No. 33 and 34, 56th Parliament – Inquiry into aged care, end-of-life and palliative care and voluntary assisted dying¹.

In response, the Queensland Government has committed to increasing investment for the delivery of palliative care². To bring about this system transformation, we propose that Queenslanders need \$385 Million per year of dedicated funding to palliative care.

Currently, palliative care receives only \$110 Million per year in funding. The current state budget supporting the delivery of palliative care to the Queensland community makes up less than 1% of the total annual state health budget of approximately \$19 billion dollars, yet palliative care is universal, touching all Queenslanders directly and indirectly. This is grossly inadequate to meet the care needs of dying Queenslanders, their carers, families and front-line medical professionals upon which the sector relies.

Palliative Care Queensland proposes an additional investment of \$275 Million with a two-pronged approach to new funding:

- The first prong focuses on improving palliative care health service delivery (with new investment of \$241 Million per year)
- The second prong builds community capacity (with new investment of \$34 Million per year)

The proposed investment provides a roadmap for systematic, positive and balanced transformation of palliative care for all, directly improving the quality of life for terminally-ill Queenslanders at all stages of life - from in utero to geriatric.

An increase in funding of \$275 million per annum, equates to less than \$53 per capita per annum³, a small investment to meet a universal need and address a human right.

¹ Queensland Parliament (2020). Reports No. 33 and 34, 56th Parliament - Inquiry into aged care, end-of-life and palliative care and voluntary assisted dying. Retrieved 30 September 2020. <https://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/work-of-committees/committees/HCDSDVPC/inquiries/past-inquiries/AgedCareEOLPC>

² Queensland Government (2020). Queensland Government Response Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee Report No. 33: Aged care, end-of-life and palliative care. Retrieved 30 September. <https://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/Documents/TableOffice/TabledPapers/2020/5620T1686.pdf>

³ \$275 million divided by 5,160,023 persons. Queensland's preliminary ERP as at 31 March 2020 - Queensland Treasury <https://www.qgso.qld.gov.au/statistics/theme/population/population-estimates/state-territories>

Funding: Prong 1

What are we investing in?	Palliative Care Service Delivery	
What does this mean for every Queenslanders?	Care for you and your support network when and where you need it	
New investment required?	\$241 Million per year	
What new investment is needed per year?	Summary	Details (inc. amount per year)
Palliative Home Care Packages (Flexible funding packages) <i>Total: \$117 Million</i>	Last Days Packages: Provide flexible funding coordinated by the local specialist palliative care service to fund additional nursing care needs during their terminal care phase	10,000 packages/year: \$70 Million
	Palliative Care Community Packages: Provide flexible funding coordinated by the local specialist palliative care service for the last 6 months of life and to support the transition of children with palliative needs to adult care	14,000 packages/year: \$42 Million
	MASS Statewide palliative care patient equipment and syringe driver program: Provide essential equipment supplies to people's homes in a timely manner for the last 6 months of life	\$5 Million
Specialist palliative care workforce <i>Total: \$72 Million</i>	Palliative Medicine Physicians including Consultants, Registrars & Resident Medical Officers	40 FTE: \$20 Million
	Palliative Care Nursing Specialist workforce including Nurse Practitioners, Clinical Nurse Consultants & Clinical Nurses	130 FTE: \$25 Million
	Palliative Care Allied Health Specialist workforce including bereavement counsellors & spiritual care coordinators	65 FTE: \$10 Million
	Palliative Care Administrative Support Staff including volunteer coordinators	40 FTE: \$5 Million
	Palliative Care Clinical Educators	35 FTE: \$7 Million
	Advance Care Planning Facilitators	25 FTE: \$5 Million
Targeted Palliative Care Service Delivery Programs <i>Total: \$50 Million</i>	First Nations Palliative Support: Statewide specialist palliative care support and a Centre for Excellence	\$9.5 Million
	Hospice and Specialist NGO Support Program: Hospice and Specialist NGO specialist support and care model expansion	\$10 Million
	SPARTA (Queensland's Specialist Palliative Rural Telehealth Service): Regional, rural and remote hub and spoke support and education	\$5 Million
	PallConsult: Statewide specialist medical, nursing and allied health telephone support for adult generalist and primary care providers	\$2 Million
	Office of Advance Care Planning: Statewide Advance Care Planning information, support and tracking service	\$1 Million
	Statewide Paediatric Palliative Care Collaborative Outreach Service: Expand children's services to include telehealth outreach and a 24-hour paediatric support phone line	\$2 Million
	Aged Care Palliative Support: Provide specialist palliative care support and consultation services for residential and community aged care	\$12.5 Million
	Statewide Bereavement Support Program: Counselling services, bereavement support groups and telephone advice for generalist services	\$5 Million
Technology investment <i>Total: \$2 Million</i>	ICT: Investment in technology solutions to complement service delivery and enable increased access to palliative care services 'in the home' or 'close to home' (particularly to regional, rural and remote clients)	\$2 Million

Funding: Prong 2

What are we investing in?	Palliative Care Capacity Building	
What does this mean for every Queensland?	Your community and services are equipped to care for Queenslanders experiencing life-limiting diagnoses, dying, death and grief. Queensland is a compassionate community where palliative care is everyone's business.	
New investment required?	\$34 Million	
What new investment is needed per year?	Summary	Details (inc. amount per year)
Specialist Palliative Care Training and workforce development programs <i>Total: \$13 Million</i>	Specialist Palliative Medicine Training and Support program	25 places \$5.5 Million
	Specialist Palliative Care Nursing Training and Support program	40 places \$5 Million
	Specialist Palliative Care Allied Health Training and Support program	20 places \$2.5 Million
Invest in Workforce, Research, Quality Improvement and Innovation <i>Total: \$11 Million</i>	Palliative Care Database Registry: A Queensland fit for purpose data registry system which builds profiles of palliative care teams, operations and service delivery as well as mapping service delivery. This registry will also share progress measures, tracking capacity and reach, ultimately providing a statewide report card for palliative care	\$8 Million
	Centre for Palliative Care Research and Education: Including research grants, fellowships and scholarship funding	\$3 Million
Policy, Engagement, Awareness Raising and Last Wishes <i>Total: \$1 Million</i>	Palliative Care Queensland: Provide advice regarding palliative care strategy and policy issues. Ongoing engagement and consultation with stakeholder groups and community awareness initiatives for National Palliative Care Week & World Hospice and Palliative Care Day	\$600,000
	Ambulance Wish Queensland: Establishment of 3 sites across Queensland, expanding reach to the regional areas	\$400,000
Community Capacity Building, Engagement and Development <i>Total: \$9 Million</i>	Statewide Palliative Care Volunteering Program: A statewide 'Volunteer Village' to support palliative care services (specialist and generalist) and community groups, based on existing programs in NSW, VIC and ACT	\$4 Million
	Queensland Compassionate Communities: Build community capacity through community development, engagement and awareness initiatives, including community education, community signposting and community support for underserved populations (including homeless, diverse population groups and prisoners). This approach utilises Public Health Palliative Care models.	\$5 Million



Palliative Care Queensland (PCQ) is the peak body for palliative care in Queensland. PCQ has been operating for over 30 years, has over 300 members and is a founding member of Palliative Care Australia. PCQ members include health professionals across all sectors of health, specialist and generalist palliative care services, aged care, disability care, peak bodies, as well as consumers and interested members of the Queensland community. Collectively, the PCQ membership body holds tremendous knowledge about the challenges the sector faces and the opportunities those challenges can bring.

Our organisational priorities are that all Queenslanders:

- are able to live every day until their last
- are able to have a dignified death, regardless of their illness, age, culture or location
- have access to a supportive social network at the end phase of life and have the choice of quality palliative care

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