



Media Release

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Palliative Care is the core issue for this inquiry

Palliative Care Queensland (PCQ) CEO Shyla Mills welcomes yesterday's announcement by Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk of the Inquiry into aged care, end of life and palliative care.

“Some people in the palliative care sector are naturally concerned about the possible introduction of voluntary euthanasia, however PCQ sees the Inquiry as an opportunity for palliative care to be seen as the core issue to address,” said Ms Mills.

“We are looking forward to showcasing the amazing work that palliative care and specialist palliative care services across the state provide. We will also highlight the needs for increased palliative services and supports, particularly in our regional areas and within aged care.

“Access and availability for palliative care services across the state is a huge issue for us. Queensland is significantly under resourced when mapped against the Australian Palliative Care Service Development Guidelines.

“We believe Queensland has approximately 50% of the recommended number of specialist palliative care workforce to meet the holistic needs of our Queensland population. Additional resources, particularly in the regional and remote areas are desperately needed, our specialist teams have been working over capacity for too long. Access to appropriately resourced palliative care, when it's needed and in the place of their choice is what people need to experience a good death.

“Too many people are ending up in emergency departments in their last hours, days and months of life and this is simply not necessary. Australia, along with New Zealand and the UK, lead the world in quality of palliative care provision, yet there is simply not enough resources to meet our Queensland community needs,” said Ms Mills

Palliative Care Queensland believes the majority of palliative care can be provided by the general health workforce – including general practice, primary care, aged care and acute hospitals – yet they need to be supported by a strong specialist palliative care sector. PCQ maintains there are significant inequities in the delivery of specialist palliative care, palliative care and community supports across the state.

Palliative Care Queensland is neutral on the voluntary euthanasia debate.

“It's our belief that society and politicians decide and create the law, yet we know that no matter what is decided within this debate, palliative care is integral for the Queensland community. It is because of this that we strongly believe that palliative care is the core issue for this inquiry,” said Ms Mills

Find out more at <https://palliativecareqld.org.au>

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PCQ is the state-wide peak body for palliative care, has been operating for 30 years and represents all individuals living with a life limiting condition, their communities and organisations which care and support for people experiencing a palliative illness.