



Hon Steven Miles MP
Minister for Health and
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19 SEP 2018

Mr Neil Laurie
Clerk of the Parliament
Queensland Parliamentary Service
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

I write in response to your letters regarding petition numbers 2971-18 and 2999-18, tabled in Parliament on 21 August 2018 and 4 September 2018 respectively, in relation to end of life choices and voluntary assisted dying. As these petitions are similar in nature, I have taken the liberty of responding to both petitions in this letter. I therefore ask that this response be noted against each petition.

On 2 September 2018, the Honourable Anastacia Palaszczuk MP, Premier and Minister for Trade announced the Government's intention to hold a Parliamentary inquiry into end of life care, including aged care, palliative care and dying with dignity. The Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee will examine these issues once the Parliament has completed its consideration of the Termination of Pregnancy Bill 2018.

Queensland Health is exploring changes and improvements in aged care and palliative care, and is also monitoring developments in Victoria, where voluntary assisted dying legislation has recently been introduced.

The Department of Health provides approximately \$114 million annually for palliative care services in Queensland, including more than \$9.2 million for non-government organisations.

The Department of Health is currently undertaking a Review of Palliative Care Services to develop an informed and strategic approach for future palliative care service arrangements with Hospital and Health Services and non-government organisations. The Review has included a broad public consultation process and will also be informed by the National Palliative Care Strategy due to be released by the end of the year.

In recognition of the need for early and extensive planning for end of life care by health professionals and individuals, the Queensland Government is also working to promote earlier discussions about end of life care and palliative care.

The Government is committed to providing the best support possible for Queenslanders to ensure that their last stages of life are safe and peaceful.

I trust this information is of assistance to the petitioners.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'SM', with a small horizontal line extending to the right.

STEVEN MILES MP

Minister for Health

Minister for Ambulance Services