

PALLIATIVE CARE—END-OF-LIFE CHOICE SERVICES

689. Mrs L.M. HARVEY to the Premier:

I refer to information tabled by the member for Girrawheen this morning about the McGowan Labor government's \$41 million palliative care and end-of-life choice services, which highlights that virtually all the additional funding is in the regions. Can the Premier confirm that he is introducing voluntary assisted dying legislation with no new money for metropolitan palliative care and end-of-life choice services?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

The government announced in the state budget that it would put more support towards palliative care and, from memory, that takes the funding of palliative care to nearly \$200 million —

Mr R.H. Cook: Over \$200 million.

Mr M. McGOWAN: I think it is closer to \$240 million or thereabouts.

Mr R.H. Cook interjected.

Mr M. McGOWAN: I will start that again. My understanding is that there is additional funding of over \$200 million towards palliative care. We have heard from a range of people that there are needs in regional Western Australia because of distance. The select committee report highlighted that there were needs around regional Western Australia because of distance from major services. I think it is fair and reasonable that as that money is spent, we have a keen focus on regional Western Australia. I would hope that this issue is not politicised.