

VOLUNTARY ASSISTED DYING — ANNUAL REPORT — BUDGET

1163. Hon Nick Goiran to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Health:

I refer to page 37 of the *Voluntary Assisted Dying Board Western Australia Annual Report 2021–22* that notes the Voluntary Assisted Dying Board recommends that ‘adequate and ongoing funding for the WA health system is provided to support the operation of the *Voluntary Assisted Dying Act 2019*.’ Page 38 states, the Board also notes that ‘[i]n 2021–22, a greater number of voluntary assisted dying requests were received than expected. This has had significant impact on the demand for participating practitioners and statewide services’, and I ask:

- (a) what was the Government’s budget allocation for the provision of voluntary assisted dying in Western Australia in the reporting period 2021–22;
- (b) what is the Government’s budget allocation for the provision of voluntary assisted dying in Western Australia in the current period 2022–23;
- (c) what would be considered to be ‘adequate’ annual funding to meet the higher than expected demand for voluntary assisted dying in Western Australia;
- (d) what was the Government’s budget allocation for the provision of palliative care in Western Australia in the reporting period 2021–22;
- (e) 191 people accessed voluntary assisted dying in the 2021–22 reporting period. How many people accessed palliative care services in the same period;
- (f) what is the Government’s budget allocation for the provision of palliative care in Western Australia in the current period 2022–23; and
- (g) what would be considered to be ‘adequate’ annual funding to meet the unmet demand for palliative care in Western Australia identified in the Parliamentary Joint Select Committee on End-of-Life Choices My Life, My Choice Report (referred to on page 8 of the *Voluntary Assisted Dying Board Western Australia Annual Report 2021–22*) and referenced in the JSCEOLC’s Recommendations 7 to 18 of that Report?

**Hon Sue Ellery replied:**

- (a) \$4,189,000
- (b) \$4,416,000
- (c) WA Health is working with the VAD Board, state wide service providers and practitioners to ensure adequate funding and resources to provide high quality services and successful implementation of the *Voluntary Assisted Dying Act 2019*.
- (d) \$108,668,000
- (e) 4,456 people accessed publicly funded inpatient palliative care services in the period 2021–22.
- (f) \$110,858,000
- (g) WA Health continues to review areas of unmet need in order to appropriately fund palliative care service delivery in WA.