

VOLUNTARY ASSISTED DYING — ANNUAL REPORT — PALLIATIVE CARE

1148. Hon Nick Goiran to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Health:

I refer to pages 5 and 21 of the *Voluntary Assisted Dying Board Western Australia—Annual Report 2021–22*, that state of those people requesting access to voluntary assisted dying in the reporting period, 14.7% were not receiving palliative care. This equates to 52 patients in Western Australia who were not receiving palliative care at the time of their First Assessment. Of those 52 patients, 43 had not received any palliative care within the last 12 months prior to their First Assessment, and I ask:

- (a) given that voluntary assisted dying is about a person who knows they will die soon and is suffering in a way that cannot be relieved in a manner that the person considers tolerable (p3) and given that these 52 patients still had to progress through the necessarily rigorous stages of assessment¹ which is a complex process (p3) that can take some time, was palliative care made available to these patients to address any physical or other symptoms causing suffering to the patients that could be addressed during the stages of voluntary assisted dying assessment; and
- (b) if palliative care was not made available to these patients, why was it not made available to them?

Hon Sue Ellery replied:

- (a)–(b) The voluntary assisted dying process does not require practitioners to notify the Voluntary Assisted Dying Board whether palliative care was subsequently made available to patients who reported that they were not receiving palliative care at the point of First Assessment.