



Hon Steven Miles MP
Minister for Health and
Minister for Ambulance Services

5 OCT 2018

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

Dear Mr Laurie

I write in response to your letter regarding petition number 2960-18, tabled in Parliament on 5 September 2018, in relation to the provision of euthanasia for Queenslanders.

The Queensland Government is committed to providing the best support possible for Queenslanders to ensure that their last journey in life is a peaceful one. Queensland Health is pursuing changes and improvements in this area and is also monitoring developments in Victoria, where assisted dying legislation has recently been introduced.

On 2 September 2018, the Honourable Anastacia Palaszczuk MP, Premier and Minister for Trade announced a parliamentary inquiry into issues to do with 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 be asked to examine these matters following the completion of its work on the Termination of Pregnancy Bill 2018.

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 Government is working to promote earlier discussions about end of life care and palliative care to allow for the timely and extensive planning needed between people who are terminally ill and their health professionals.

In addition, Queensland Health is currently undertaking a Review of Palliative Care Services to develop an informed and strategic approach for future palliative care service arrangements. The Review has included a broad public consultation process and will also be informed by the National Palliative Care Strategy anticipated in the near future.

I trust this information is of assistance to the petitioners.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S Miles', written in a cursive style.

STEVEN MILES MP

Minister for Health

Minister for Ambulance Services