

Comprehensive Palliative Care in Aged Care Program

Ms ROSOL question to MINISTER for HEALTH, MENTAL HEALTH and WELLBEING

My question is on behalf of my constituent, Emily Shepherd. Since 2018, the Comprehensive Palliative Care in Aged Care Program has provided specialist palliative care in-reach to older people in aged care facilities. It has meant better-quality end-of-life care and more choice about place of death. It has also eased pressure on the public health system by helping people avoid hospital in their last days. Both the Commonwealth and state have funded clinical nurse consultants (CNCs) and registrars in each region of the state. However, the Federal Government cut funding this year and the State Government has followed suit. This will result in increased pressure on specialist palliative care services, ambulances and emergency departments - services already under great pressure.

Minister, will you acknowledge the downstream impacts this funding cut will have on the health system and reinstate funding for at least three CNCs across Tasmania so access to specialist palliative care for aged-care residents can continue beyond 1 July 2026?