

PEEL COMMUNITY PALLIATIVE CARE PROGRAM

1238. Hon SALLY TALBOT to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Health:

I refer to the highly successful Peel Community Palliative Care program that has been operating for 14 years in Peel.

- (1) Is this program proposed to be closed or defunded by the Department of Health?
- (2) If yes to (1), why has this decision been made?
- (3) If yes to (1), what service provider will provide palliative care within the community in the Peel region to replace Peel Community Palliative Care?
- (4) If there are new arrangements proposed for the provision of palliative care in the Peel region, who has been consulted about these changes and what are the reasons for the changes?

Hon ALYSSA HAYDEN replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

- (1) No; the service will not be closed or defunded. There is a proposal to contract this service to a private provider. Services will continue to be funded by the Department of Health. The service will continue to be based in the Peel region.
- (2) No decision has been made. A service will continue to be based in the Peel region. Key priorities of the service will be access to 24-hour medical advice, after-hours access to the clinical nurse consultant, provision of respite care at home, access to allied health professionals, a paid chaplaincy service, support of electronic technology to document care and enhanced engagement with local general practitioners in the Peel local area.
- (3) The service provider is to be determined.
- (4) Models of care have been discussed with staff and the involved general practitioner, Dr Peter Wallace. An appropriate communication plan will be implemented when indicated.