

PALLIATIVE CARE

746. Ms L. Mettam to the Minister for Health:

I refer to palliative care in Western Australia and ask:

- (a) What was the total budget for palliative care in Western Australia in the years listed below. Please specify according to whether it was a hospital, aged care, home or hospice setting:
 - (i) 2018–2019;
 - (ii) 2019–2020;
 - (iii) 2020–2021; and
 - (iv) 2021–2022;
- (b) What is the number of full-time equivalent staff that were employed in delivering palliative care in the years listed below. Please specify whether they were employed in a hospital (including department), hospice, home or aged care setting:
 - (i) 2018–2019;
 - (ii) 2019–2020;
 - (iii) 2020–2021; and
 - (iv) 2021–2022;
- (c) What are the services that are delivered as part of palliative care in Western Australia, and what is their cost per capita; and
- (d) Which agencies currently provide palliative care services to Western Australians:
 - (i) what services do they provide; and
 - (ii) how much funding does each agency receive?

Ms A. Sanderson replied:

- (a) (i)–(iv) Following the release of the *Joint Select Committee My Life My Choice 2018 report* actions were undertaken to further define palliative care reporting and better determine the activity and spend profiles for palliative care. Data from 2018–19 to 2020–21 is not available. The total State budget for palliative care for 2021–22 as at the 2021–22 Budget was \$104.9 million. \$46.1 million was allocated to hospital based palliative care and \$58.8 million was allocated to community based palliative care.
- (b) (i)–(iv) Total requested figures are not possible to ascertain across all settings and all health disciplines. FTE for the disciplines of specialist palliative care physicians and palliative care nurses only, are outlined below:

Specialist palliative care physicians employed in WA:

2018	28.7 FTE
2019	28.9 FTE
2020	27.9 FTE
2021	29.6 FTE

Nursing – employed in WA with a job area of Palliative Care

2018	304.1 FTE
2019	313.2 FTE
2020	335.6 FTE
2021	304.8 FTE

- (c) Palliative care services are based on an individual's needs:
 - relief of pain and other symptoms (e.g. nausea, shortness of breath)
 - support to live as actively as possible until death

equipment to help you live at home, such as wheelchairs or special beds
counselling and grief support for the individual, their family/ loved ones
support for emotional, social and spiritual concerns
access to support services (e.g. respite care, home help, financial support).

Based on the latest population estimate for 2022–23, the budgeted cost per head of population of delivering palliative care services in Western Australia is \$39.52.

- (d) (i)–(ii) Silver Chain and Bethesda Health Care are contracted agencies providing community-based specialist palliative care services in Western Australia. Funding was allocated in 2022–23 to both agencies, \$21.7 million to Silver Chain and \$2.4 million to Bethesda Health Care. Health Service Providers (East, North, South and WA Country) provide hospital based palliative care. Provision of specialist palliative care includes relief of pain and other symptoms, psychosocial support, interventions to support quality of life and bereavement support.