

Queensland Health Palliative and End-of-Life Care Strategy



Our vision

Queenslanders with a life-limiting illness and their families receive equitable, compassionate, and high-quality palliative care that meets their individual needs, preferences, and goals at the end of life.

About the Strategy

The Palliative and End-of-Life Care Strategy guides the Queensland Government's additional investment of approximately \$171 million to expand and strengthen palliative and end-of-life care in Queensland.

The additional investment is allocated to the following initiatives:

Initiatives	Total funding to 2025–26
Develop a new Palliative and End-of-Life Care Strategy	\$0.5 million
Grow Queensland Health's frontline specialist palliative care workforce, supported by a workforce plan	\$102.5 million
Invest in community-based services to meet local needs	\$54.8 million
Enhance palliative care digital services and telehealth support	\$7.2 million
Deliver 24/7 secondary consultation for palliative care practitioners	\$4.3 million
Provide education and advocacy about dying, death and advance care planning	\$1.6 million

This significant investment will fund critical initiatives to ensure palliative care remains high-quality and accessible and enables people to exercise genuine choice at end of life.

The Strategy will ensure palliative and end-of-life care is person-centred, compassionate, equitable and accessible to all Queenslanders. We know that a strong, collaborative effort is needed to deliver good care, and the Strategy responds to this need.

There are seven principles that guide the goals, actions and intended outcomes of the Strategy.

Enhancing our palliative care system will take effort over time. The Strategy is an important step in the reform journey.

The Strategy includes 44 actions that focus on expanding existing initiatives and exploring new areas. The actions emerged from extensive consultation processes and aim to improve outcomes for people with a life-limiting illness and to support families, carers and loved ones.

The Strategy is supported by the Queensland Health Specialist Palliative Care Workforce Plan. The plan outlines how we are growing our specialist palliative care workforce across the state to meet community needs.

Making it happen

2022–23

DESIGN

New initiatives are co-designed, backed by evidence and enable place-based models of care.



2023–24

ENABLE

New frontline workforce improves models of care.

Community-based care services increase and support care at home for Queenslanders in regional and remote areas.



2024–25

STRENGTHEN

Workforce is expanded and specialist support is increased to strengthen service delivery and local level responses.

Support for workforce, consumers and carers is strengthened across sectors and with key partners.



2025–26 ONWARDS

CONNECTED

Innovative models of care are expanded and integrated across the system.

Action is evaluated and proven approaches are embedded in service delivery and local models of care.



What the Strategy will deliver



Access to quality services

People with a life-limiting illness can access high quality, efficient and integrated palliative care services, at the right time and in the right place



Information about care

People with a life-limiting illness, their families and carers receive information that enables and supports them to make informed choices about palliative and end-of-life care



Individual needs and preferences

People with a life-limiting illness receive compassionate and high-quality care that is aligned to their preferences and is respectful of their culture, age, identity, emotional and spiritual needs



Support for families and carers

Families and carers receive timely and compassionate support while caring for people with a life-limiting illness and during bereavement



Skilled workforce

Care is delivered by a skilled, supported, and multidisciplinary workforce that is accessible for people with a life-limiting illness, their families and carers



Data and research

Research and performance data are used to continually improve palliative care policy settings and services



Governance and advocacy

State governance of this strategy drives action, accountability and sustainability of funded services



Our commitment to palliative care reform has already started.

We have a track record of investing in palliative care to improve accessibility and equity across the state, and this Strategy will drive better outcomes. In 2025–26, Queensland's total spend on palliative care is estimated to be close to \$250 million per annum.