



**Tony PERRETT** MP  
Member for Gympie



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **Little Haven needs funding certainty from Government**

Gympie's palliative care service needs funding certainty from the State Labor Government to match community needs.

Member for Gympie, Tony Perrett, said in Parliament this week that Little Haven Palliative Care Inc needs funding certainty to allow it to meet increasing community demand for its services. \*

“Currently Little Haven only receives 35% of its funding from Queensland Health for the valuable work it does in providing support to the terminally ill and their families.

“It is an integral part of the Gympie community and has helped more than 200 patients and their families in the region during the last financial year.

“With a 14% increase in admissions and it now has a \$500,000 funding shortfall hanging over their head.

“Unfortunately the previous Minister for Health showed little interest in supporting them with approaches for help hitting a brick wall.

“The Minister even told the Gympie Times that there were no more palliative funding available for community care, and that there were no plans to redirect funding allocated elsewhere.

“Focusing on the numbers, and not the patients, they were told to reduce the size of the area that it services, cap the number of patients, or only accept patients in the last three months of life.

“Given that without Little Haven these patients would then transfer to being a burden on Queensland's Health system the advice is a false economy.

“This service is one of a number plug the gaps in government services in our region.

“With an ageing population and increasing rates of complex chronic illness palliative care services should not be told to cut their services or cap numbers.

“During last year's election last year I secured a \$300,000 commitment from an LNP Government, and for an immediate review into its annual allocation with the view to tailor it to meet rising community demand.

“In January I made representations to the new Minister who has advised me that Little Haven will receive a one-off grant of \$100,000 for a management system, and that its service agreement would be renewed in July.

“While I welcome the funds it obviously is nowhere near enough to allow Little Haven to continue its services with any degree of certainty.

“The Minister has also advised me that the Department will be undertaking a system-wide review of palliative care services in Queensland this year.

“Let’s hope this new Minister gives Little Haven a more receptive and sympathetic hearing of the valuable work it does in looking after sick and vulnerable members of our local community.

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**\*Speech attached**