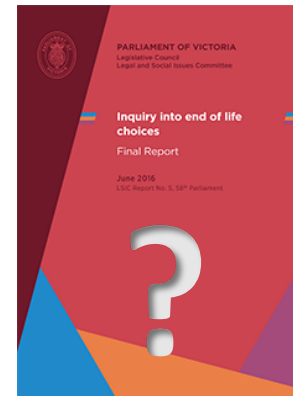


29 unfunded recommendations on palliative care reform in Victoria

There are positives in today's Budget with a major funding announcement of \$1.9bn to combat family violence and \$1.3bn additional funding to address growing patient demand across Victoria. This will include some additional funding for palliative care services. There is also a welcomed additional boost to social housing to combat homelessness.

However, the Budget has not included any new funding in response to the first 29 recommendations of the Legal and Social Issues Committee of the Legislative Council into **End of Life Choices**. Some of key recommendations in the Committee's Final Report were calls for:

- the development of an evidence-based funding framework for the palliative care workforce
- expansion of access to community palliative care services in rural and regional communities
- funding to reduce inequities in provision of palliative care across residential aged care facilities
- new measures to inform patients of the benefits of palliative care services especially to disadvantaged groups
- and funding for reliable respite services for carers.



So while the Government is fast tracking its response to one recommendation – Recommendation 49 on Euthanasia/Assisted Suicide, it appears to have ignored the first 29 recommendations of the Committee. Greater access to sustainably funded palliative care services is the best way to support the wellbeing of Victorians in their last days.

The Caroline Chisholm Centre for Health Ethics calls on the Government to urgently fund the measures proposed in the Committee's report into palliative care service delivery.

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