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AFTER EIGHT YEARS OF NEGLECT THE BEREJIKLIAN GOVERNMENT MAKES PALLIATIVE CARE PROMISES

After eight years of neglecting palliative care in NSW, the Berejiklian Government is only now making promises to support patients and the hard working professionals working in palliative care.

NSW Labor has already committed to palliative care services in Woy Woy, Taree and Goulburn – and will be making further announcements during the election campaign.

Labor also criticised the Berejiklian Government and Health Minister Brad Hazzard for dragging their feet on the availability of medicinal cannabis for those with life limiting and terminal illness.

With a similar population to NSW, Israel has more than 30,000 patients using medical cannabis with a ministry-issued permit however under the Liberal and National Government access is very difficult – with only around 1000 prescriptions approved in NSW.

NSW Shadow Health Minister Walt Secord criticised the Berejiklian Government for not doing enough to support palliative care in NSW.

“The Liberals and Nationals have the wrong priorities, they are splurging \$2.2 billion on stadiums rather than investing in the health and hospital system”, Mr Secord said.

“A measure of a society is how it assists and comforts the dying and supports their families. Palliative care is about alleviating the suffering of those who have a terminal or incurable illness.”

“Patients often want to pass away at home – and if they cannot do so then they want to pass away in an environment close to home – sadly not enough patients in NSW are given these options.”

“Families of patients have been pleading for the Government to properly resource the palliative care system in NSW – but the Berejiklian Government hasn’t done enough – especially in rural and regional areas and for those from indigenous and culturally and linguistically diverse communities.”

“Previously the Liberals had promised to increase access to medicinal cannabis but after eight years have delivered very little”