



Speech by

Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk

MEMBER FOR INALA

Hansard Tuesday, 9 March 2010

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Mental Health Services

Hon. A PALASZCZUK (Inala—ALP) (Minister for Disability Services and Multicultural Affairs) (10.35 am): Last Friday I opened the Mental Health Association Queensland's new premises in Annerley. The Mental Health Association Queensland has been delivering quality early intervention mental health services to Queenslanders since 1961. Since last year the Mental Health Association became a registered trainee organisation and began providing training for the mental health workforce. To date it has provided training to more than 210 people. The Bligh government values the work of the Mental Health Association of Queensland and is pleased to contribute over \$750,000 annually.

We are also pleased to be providing \$6.4 million for the Time Out housing initiative announced in the 2009-10 state budget. Over the next three years this initiative will benefit over 250 Queenslanders aged between 18 and 25 who are experiencing early signs and symptoms of mental health problems. Today I can inform the House that Cairns and Logan will be the first two pilot locations for this early initiative for mental health. Pilot programs will soon be up and running in both places, run by Aftercare in Cairns and the Youth and Family Service in Logan City.

I would like to thank the Treasurer for his strong support of this important initiative. It will help prevent hospital admissions and relieve pressure on acute mental health services while ensuring young Queenslanders can access clinical support, counselling and specialist public mental health services where appropriate. What we want to do is prevent these young people from ending up in our hospitals by providing them with the support they need at this early stage of diagnosis. Both services will be staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week by two support workers. Each service will also have outreach workers to support people for up to three months after they leave the program.

This initiative tackles mental illness early on, with the aim of minimising its detrimental effects. Early intervention can help to deliver better mental health outcomes and is an important part of our vision to support one in five Queenslanders who will experience a mental health problem during their lifetime. We are getting on with the job of building stronger community mental health services, and we are continuing to invest. The Bligh government is contributing \$55 million this financial year to make sure that we provide the very best community mental health support services throughout Queensland.