




Speech By
Hon. Cameron Dick

MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE

Record of Proceedings, 17 September 2015

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

World Suicide Prevention Day

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (10.08 am): Each year in Queensland, more than 600 people lose their lives to suicide and many more people attempt it. To mark World Suicide Prevention Day, recently I launched the Queensland Mental Health Commission's Queensland Suicide Prevention Action Plan 2015-17. The action plan was developed following extensive consultation with members of the community and those with a lived experience of suicide. We know that there is no single solution, service, action or initiative that will reduce suicide or its impact. However, by working together, including across this chamber, we can make a big difference and that is why an action plan was developed.

During consultation many stakeholders, including those who have been impacted by suicide, called for the community to change the conversation about suicide to one of hope. The action plan starts that change process and focuses on a whole-of-community and whole-of-government approach to reducing suicide and its impact. Many of the actions relate to the health system. This included the commitment I made in June that all accident and emergency staff in public hospitals would receive training to help identify and respond appropriately to people at risk of suicide or who have attempted suicide.

When I launched this plan I also noted the support I received from my ministerial colleagues who have committed themselves to taking action in a number of areas. Working together we will provide better support for children and young people in schools and youth detention centres as well as improving police responses. We have also committed to improving support for our hardworking front-line police and Queensland Rail staff who respond to suicide and attempted suicide.

The commission is leading this work across government and is working with communities to build on their strengths and capacity to support those at risk and those who have been impacted by suicide. It will work closely with the Australian Institute for Suicide Research and Prevention to use the internationally renowned Queensland suicide register to provide communities with information and data to support locally led actions to reduce suicide. I would like to again commend the commission on their hard work in developing this plan.

In conclusion, can I acknowledge the work of so many community and civil society organisations—organisations such as Roses in the Ocean—which work so hard in the Queensland community to help stem the tide of suicide. I want to thank Roses in the Ocean founder and CEO, Bronwen Edwards, for providing all honourable members with a single red rose today. Mr Speaker, I thank you for your indulgence in allowing us to display the roses in the chamber today.

It is amazing how a single red rose, provided to all members, can change how we see this chamber, and perhaps even how we see each other. Simple acts can help stem the tide of suicide. I thank Bronwen and her team at Roses in the Ocean and all the community, non-government organisations for the work they do in helping to address suicide in Queensland.