



Speech By  
**Hon. Cameron Dick**


**MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE**

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Record of Proceedings, 14 October 2015

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**Ice**

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (2.18 pm): The Palaszczuk government is concerned about the spread of the drug ice throughout our communities—ranging from the edge of major cities to rural and sometimes even remote communities. Over the last five years the weight of police seizure of methamphetamine in crystal form has more than doubled. The Queensland Police Service reports that, over the same period, the purity of ice has risen to 72 per cent.

The federal government has established a National Ice Taskforce. This task force has been holding public meetings around the country and is due to report to the Prime Minister very soon. Its recommendations will be considered by the Council of Australian Governments later this year.

We look forward to seeing what is in the report, but we are not just waiting for another level of government to act. Last month, the Premier and I announced that this government is putting a \$6 million package into front-line treatment and management for Queenslanders suffering from the ice epidemic. The focus of this package is early intervention to stop people getting addicted to ice. An amount of \$2 million has been allocated to operate two drug and alcohol brief intervention teams in the emergency departments at Logan and Townsville.

People affected by this drug often arrive at emergency departments with other injuries so it is an important time to intervene early in the cycle of dependency. A further \$500,000 has been allocated to developing one of these intervention teams in Rockhampton and another \$500,000 will expand the Gold Coast's existing intervention team in light of its success there in recent years. New programs are also proposed at Gold Coast and Rockhampton that provide additional youth focused programs to intervene early and link with other community supports. At Logan we will be investing in a program to help families with young children where parents use drugs. These aim to help the parents either get off drugs or otherwise minimise the impact on their children. At Charleville and Cunnamulla we will help support a community wellbeing program to work on integrating services, community supports and employment and education programs to address ice. On Cape York at Cooktown and Weipa we will provide clinical nurse consultants who will provide clinical leadership and expertise to the existing services. They will also be used to provide education to schools and children.

These areas have been selected as immediate priorities based on service mapping and activity data analysis undertaken to support the new Mental Health, Drug and Alcohol Services Plan 2016-21 which is currently under development. We have also built on analysis which informed the 2007 Ice Breaker Strategy. Townsville, Metro South and Central Queensland have proportionally high rates of alcohol and other drug clients accessing emergency department services. These regions aside, we will also be spending \$680,000 on specific training and resources to support front-line workers facing the ice epidemic across the state. Our hospital and health services across the state already spend

approximately \$114 million a year on alcohol and other drug services and treatment, but this \$6 million package is targeted at those areas most in need where we can ramp up services quickly. We will be monitoring implementation across the initial six areas and collecting data and other information on the activity delivered by the new services. This will help us determine and develop the best possible treatment options to use across the state.