



Speech By
Hon. Cameron Dick

MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Queensland Mental Health Promotion, Prevention and Early Intervention Action Plan

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (9.44 am): Last week was Queensland Mental Health Week, an opportunity for Queenslanders to reflect on mental health and take some positive steps to highlight the importance of mental wellbeing. On behalf of the Palaszczuk government, I unveiled a plan to improve the mental health and wellbeing of Queenslanders by taking early action.

The Queensland Mental Health Promotion, Prevention and Early Intervention Action Plan is another milestone following the introduction by the government of the Mental Health Bill 2015 and the release of the Suicide Prevention Action Plan last month. Mental health and wellbeing is important because it enables us to cope with the everyday stress of life and to make a productive contribution to our community. By acting early and promoting good mental health and wellbeing, we can reduce the number of people who experience mental illness in Queensland.

The plan was developed by the Queensland Mental Health Commission and brings together over 90 different actions from across the Queensland government. For example, the Department of Education and Training will create an online resource to help teachers support students with mental health difficulties. Queensland Treasury and the Office of Fair and Safe Work will develop a new mental health at work action plan to help Queensland businesses protect staff from psychological hazards like bullying. I was very pleased to see senior leaders from across the state government attend the launch of the plan, reflecting the importance placed on this new plan. Leaders who attended included the Commissioner of Police, Ian Stewart; the Acting Commissioner of the Queensland Ambulance Service, David Eels; Steve Armitage, the Principal Commissioner of the Queensland Family and Child Commission; and Helen Gluer, the CEO of Queensland Rail. This plan is the next step in promoting mental health and wellbeing and reducing the incidence and impact of mental illness.

The plan also includes a grants program from the Mental Health Commission. This year the program will see 14 organisations awarded grants of up to \$50,000. These community organisations help improve mental health through social inclusion and community participation. The government is proud to work with them to help deliver better mental health for all Queenslanders.