




Speech By
Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk

MEMBER FOR INALA

Record of Proceedings, 13 October 2016

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Barrett Adolescent Centre

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.33 am): The closure of the Barrett Adolescent Centre at Wacol by the former government in January 2014 was a bad decision with far-reaching consequences. I urged the then government and the then minister not to close the centre. The member for Bundamba argued against the centre's closure as well. The patients and the families of the patients urged the government not to close the centre. Despite these pleas, the centre was closed. Tragically, we lost three young Queenslanders who had received treatment and support at the centre. In government I commissioned an inquiry into the closure and the transitional arrangements for those receiving treatment at the centre. The inquiry found the reasons provided for the former government's decision did not support its closure. In fact, the reasons provided for the closure actually supported the need for a review and an update of the appropriate model of care and consideration of a new or replacement facility.

The commission also made criticisms regarding systemic issues associated with the redirection of funding from the Redlands project, which was originally planned as a replacement facility for Barrett. When I released the inquiry's report in July, I committed the government to implement all of its recommendations. I reaffirm that commitment today. Specifically, the inquiry recommended to the government that it should—

... consider a new building in south-east Queensland offering a range of mental health services for young people, including bed-based services.

Later today the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services and I will announce the next steps the government is taking to deliver a new bed based extended treatment and rehabilitation facility that the inquiry recommended. We are building a new centre and construction of it should start by the end of next year. We are also developing a new model of care that will support at-risk Queensland adolescents in the most appropriate way. To do this, the government will work closely with the individuals and families associated with the former Barrett centre, as their ongoing involvement is integral to the development of this new model. I want to take this opportunity to sincerely thank the Minister for Health for developing this response.