




Speech By
Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk

MEMBER FOR INALA

Record of Proceedings, 2 November 2016

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

National Partnership Agreements, Expiry

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (2.05 pm): There are a number of national partnerships expiring in 2016-17 and 2017-18 with no indication yet from the federal government as to whether they will be renewed. States currently have limited capacity to influence federal decisions on expiring national partnerships.

The federal government's unilateral decisions on renewed funding for national partnerships causes states significant fiscal risk. Without funding certainty, we have limited ability to plan for ongoing services, contract with service providers and pursue innovations and efficiencies in service delivery. States must pick up the bill for expiring national partnerships or risk cuts to vital services.

One avenue of influence Queensland utilises is the annual joint state and territory treasurers' submission to the federal Treasurer about expiring agreements. This year Queensland is leading the submission that covers national partnerships expiring on or before 30 June 2018. The submission details those national partnerships states and territories want to see renewed beyond their expiry dates, and will be lodged with the federal Treasurer in the coming days.

Expiring national partnerships that are of particular concern to Queensland include: universal access to early childhood; skills reform; homelessness and remote Indigenous housing; and adult public dental services. The funding from these national partnerships provides vital services to the people of Queensland.

A pertinent example of the impacts of the federal government's decision to not renew a national partnership can be seen with the National Partnership Supporting National Mental Health Reform. This national partnership had provided approximately \$52 million over the five years from 2012 to 2016. However, the federal government unilaterally decided not to renew the agreement from 2016 onwards.

This unilateral decision compromises support for up to 188 Queenslanders with severe and persistent mental illness and impacts up to 31 community managed mental health organisations and their employees. This in turn has the potential to increase demand on state public hospital emergency departments and public mental health services.

To limit the impacts of the federal government's decision, my government will provide interim funding for 12 months to the affected clients. Although the federal government's response to previous joint treasurers' expiring agreements submissions has been disappointing, it is still important to continue raising the issue of expiring national partnerships.

I place on record my thanks to the Minister for Health and the Treasurer for bringing this very important issue to cabinet. We must argue for certainty and future federal government funding to our state.