



Speech By
Hon. Cameron Dick

MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Mental Health Services

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (2.19 pm): In May last year, I announced a statewide clinical review of mental health sentinel events to review our mental health system and make recommendations to improve it. The aim of the review was to identify how the government's systems and practices could be improved to prevent homicides and other fatalities involving people with a mental illness. I table a copy of the review report.

Tabled paper: Queensland Health: When mental health care meets risk: A Queensland sentinel events review into homicide and public sector mental health services [[1513](#)].

Since the review report was completed in April, extensive work has been done to identify any personal information contained in the report and redact it accordingly to protect the privacy of individuals. In the period since then, the government has also prepared a detailed response to the report, and I also table a copy of Queensland Health's response.

Tabled paper: Queensland Health Response to the Final Report: When mental health care meets risk: A Queensland sentinel events review into homicide and public sector mental health services [[1514](#)].

Our government acted proactively to commission this review to identify how we can improve the delivery of mental health services across Queensland. The review confirms that Queensland has made genuine efforts and significant progress in mental health clinical and system reform since the 2005 report commissioned by the Beattie government, *Achieving balance: report of the Queensland review of fatal mental health sentinel events*. It is important to remember that, while these cases are the worst possible outcome of mental illness, the vast majority of people with mental illness are not violent. I stress that the situation in Queensland is no worse—and in some ways, better—than in other states. Rates of homicide by mentally ill offenders are lower in Queensland than the national average, and this rate has declined over the period 2003-04 through to 2011-12. However, in this very difficult area of mental health, we cannot be complacent.

The review committee made 11 key findings and 63 recommendations regarding improvements in strategic policy and clinical practice. I thank the review committee for its important work. I can inform the House that the government has, in principle, accepted all 63 recommendations of the report. These recommendations include the creation of a statewide mental health quality assurance committee to provide continuous oversight in this area and to monitor the implementation of the recommendations of this report. We are already reviewing and upgrading training and risk assessment procedures so that clinicians on the front line have the best possible chance of detecting any issues. In addition, we have already made important changes to information systems within Queensland Health to increase the availability of clinical information, including the prominence of clinical alerts. We will also expand the provision of mental health clinicians within the police command centre to ensure that police can have ready access to professional mental health expertise.

While it is not always possible to predict or prevent tragedies, I am confident the outcomes of this report will help ensure our services and systems continue to improve. It is estimated that nearly half of all Queenslanders will experience mental illness at some stage in their lives. Our government will continue to work very hard to create a brighter and better future for people living with mental illness.