




Speech By
Hon. Cameron Dick

MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Mental Health Week

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (10.00 am): As I am sure many members are aware, this week is Mental Health Week. The theme for this year focuses on the value of mental health. This may mean dollar figures or monetary value for some people, but I think the real message is about the importance of good mental health and wellbeing.

Mental health does not discriminate. About one in five Australians will experience a mental illness in any given year, and almost half will experience a mental health problem at some point in their lives. That is why it is so important to talk about mental health openly and regularly so that those people who need extra support can feel encouraged to talk about their problems and access the help they need. This support needs to come from all levels and we all have a role to play as members of the community, but as a government we need to lead the way.

This government is doing just that by investing strongly in the mental health of Queenslanders. This week I was proud to release Connecting Care to Recovery, a five-year plan guiding our investment in mental health and alcohol and other drug services. This additional investment of \$350 million over five years will be used to expand mental health, alcohol and other drug services in order to optimise the level and mix of services available to Queenslanders.

In the immediate future, \$3 million of this funding will be used to urgently support existing state funded alcohol and other drug treatment services to meet current demand. The plan also highlights the importance of working collaboratively with non-government and community organisations across the system so that Queenslanders can access the care they need when and where they need it. As good mental health is integral to overall good health and wellbeing, Connecting Care to Recovery follows the guiding principles set out in our strategic plan, Advancing health 2026, which aims to ensure Queenslanders are among the healthiest people in the world by 2026.

I intend to make further announcements this week as to how else this government intends to support Queenslanders with their mental health, particularly with regard to providing support to young people. In closing, I encourage anyone who needs support to phone 13HEALTH on 13432584, the Alcohol and Drug Information Service on 1800177833, or Lifeline on 131114.