




Speech By
Hon. Cameron Dick

MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE

Record of Proceedings, 13 October 2016

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Mental Health Services

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (9.45 am): This morning, I am pleased to join with the Premier in updating the House on progress towards implementing the government's response to the Barret commission of inquiry. As the Premier has said, the government is committed to implementing all of the commission's six recommendations. Yesterday, I had the opportunity to brief many families and consumers of the former Barrett Adolescent Centre on our progress in this area. As the Premier said, we are going to do what the LNP should have done. We are going to do what the LNP was told to do by experts, whom it ignored. We are going to do what the LNP was told to do by families and young people, who were also ignored. The Palaszczuk government will build a replacement for the Barrett Adolescent Centre. I look forward to making an announcement with the Premier later today and thank her for her outstanding leadership, both in opposition and in government, on this important issue.

The commission of inquiry made a number of recommendations. We are on our way to implementing all of the recommendations, overseen by a steering committee that involves families and patients of the former Barrett Adolescent Centre. We also are working closely with Health Consumers Queensland to develop specific strategies to ensure the comprehensive engagement with and involvement of consumers, carers and community members in the implementation of the government response.

I can advise the House that, to address recommendation 1, we have engaged PricewaterhouseCoopers to undertake a review of statewide services. This will be complete in 2017. To address recommendation 2, we will be engaging a specialist consultant to review contracts with non-government organisations that provide mental health services. This consultant will also report next year. To address recommendation 3, we will be working with the Queensland centre for mental health to look at extended treatment for adolescents and young people with severe and complex mental health issues. We have already committed to implementing recommendation 4, which is to build a replacement facility. In accordance with recommendation 5, we will be engaging an independent consultant to review the alignment and transition arrangements between adolescent and adult mental health services.

We will present the findings and recommendations to the Council of Australian Governments for consideration. We have undertaken preliminary consultations with experts in the area of intellectual disability and mental illness. We will be working with the department of communities to match services and review guidelines, particularly in relation to the rollout of the NDIS. I look forward to updating the House on our ongoing work in this area.