



Speech By  
**Hon. Cameron Dick**


**MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE**

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**World AIDS Day**

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (10.33 am): I rise today to draw to the attention of House World AIDS Day and the steps the Palaszczuk government is taking to help the global fight against HIV-AIDS. World AIDS Day is a way to remember and honour those who have lost their lives to that terrible virus. It is also a chance to show those living with HIV-AIDS that they are supported and in our thoughts.

The Palaszczuk government is committed to creating a Queensland characterised by equality, fairness and justice, where good health outcomes are experienced by everyone. That is why Queensland has become the first state in Australia to develop a comprehensive sexual health strategy. The Queensland Sexual Health Strategy 2016-2021, which I released today, is designed to proactively deal with challenges in the sexual health space. The challenges include population growth, rising rates of sexually transmissible infections, increasing numbers of people living with HIV and sexual health related risk behaviours.

Unfortunately, when those opposite were in government, they took an axe to the sexual health budget and to the organisations and services operating in the sexual health space, all but closing the Biala Sexual Health Service—a service I am pleased to say the Palaszczuk Labor government is revitalising. In order to reverse that damage, this government has already committed \$21.3 million to support and implement services that support the Sexual Health Strategy. That includes \$6 million announced earlier this year for an expanded QPrEPd trial and a \$15.3 million investment in the North Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sexually Transmissible Infections Action Plan. This important action plan aims to halt the progression of STIs in Indigenous communities in the Far North. Additional to the \$21.3 million investment, \$5.3 million has been allocated towards priority areas outlined in the Sexual Health Strategy.

Further, this morning I announced \$35 million in new funding to continue partnerships with organisations supporting the sexual health of Queenslanders. All up, the Palaszczuk government is investing \$62 million to protect and advance the sexual and reproductive health of Queenslanders. This is all in addition to \$13.2 million to revitalise the Biala Sexual Health Service. I am confident that the detailed, targeted approach this government is taking towards sexual health will restore public confidence in our sexual health services, reduce the incidence of infectious diseases and advance the Palaszczuk government's goal of making Queenslanders among the healthiest people in the world by 2026.