




Speech By
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MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Preventative Health and Health Promotion

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (12.17 pm): I rise to speak about preventative health and health promotion in Queensland. This is a very appropriate week in which to talk about this topic, because this is National Stroke Week. I hope that all members of this House and the parliamentary staff will attend the event that I have organised with the National Stroke Foundation on Thursday. The theme of this year's Stroke Week is Speed Saves and to think FAST. I challenge every member of this House to learn the meaning of FAST. It could save someone's life.

Over the past 30 years the manner in which we diagnose, treat and rehabilitate people who have had a stroke has changed dramatically. Thanks to the persistent work of the National Stroke Foundation, we now have unified, streamlined and evidence based approaches to stroke diagnosis, treatment and rehabilitation. Perhaps the biggest contribution that the National Stroke Foundation has made is in the area of stroke education and prevention. As a volunteer for the Stroke Foundation, I have all the resources and the support that I need to educate the public and to provide clinical assessments. I play a small role in an army of people who educate the community and help people to realise that making the healthy choice can be the easy choice.

This week has made me reflect on the significant achievements of the Palaszczuk government in the area of preventive health and health promotion. On the weekend, I had the great pleasure of watching the Under-17 Coorparoo Women's Australian Rules Football Team win their grand final. On the sidelines, I watched the club president asking people to stop smoking or move outside the grounds. He came up to me and thanked me for the new laws that we had passed. Research demonstrates that children who are not exposed to cigarette smoke are much less likely to commence smoking. We also know that, if people have to walk further to smoke, they will cut down on the amount they smoke and will be more likely to succeed at quitting.

The government and the public health system must work in partnership with the non-profit and private sectors in the area of health promotion. Diabetes Queensland is leading the Health for Life! program to tackle chronic diseases. The government is working with the Heart Foundation, the Ethnic Communities Council of Queensland, the Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Council, the Queensland University of Technology and the Queensland primary health networks—a \$27 million investment over four years by the Palaszczuk government to tackle chronic illness.

I have spoken before about the young men who I nursed in the eighties who died of AIDS, a disease we can now prevent and manage. I am so proud to be part of a government that is supporting the Queensland Aids Council, an organisation with 30 years of cutting-edge work in this field, with the Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis program, or PrEP program, just the latest initiative of QuAC to prevent the spread of HIV—a \$6 million investment by this government.

These and many other initiatives are making a huge difference to the people of Queensland. Compare this to the record of those opposite: cuts to preventative health services delivered by Queensland Health; cuts to safety and quality units in Queensland Health that were crucial in rolling out programs aimed at health promotion; cuts to funding for community sector organisations that led the way on health promotion and gag clauses inserted to silence their advocacy works; cuts to school based nurses; and, perhaps the most tragic cut of all, Queenslanders should never forget the shutting of the Barrett centre for adolescent mental health. They should also never forget the damage that those opposite did to our health system. They should never forget that the member for Clayfield was the driving force behind this damage.

I was so pleased recently to see Dr Michael Marmot in Australia to speak at the Boyer Lectures. Anyone who follows his work will know that he is a leader in the field of social determinants of health. While the Palaszczuk government can be proud of the achievements in the area of preventative health, it is the Advancing Education action plan that may actually have the greatest influence on health. Research clearly demonstrates the link between an individual's level of education and their lifetime health outcomes. Professor Sir Marmot is also a strong advocate, based on research, of investing and commencing education as early as possible. I was pleased to vote in support of the compulsory prep participation just two weeks ago. In my electorate I am privileged to have so many fine schools, including the School of Distance Education and a leading special school, schools that demonstrate the commitment of this government to providing high-quality educational opportunities for every student in every circumstance.

In health and in education the Palaszczuk government has a proud record of delivering outcomes—outcomes that will deliver better health for existing and future Queenslanders. This government has rejected the short-sighted cuts of the previous government and understands that Queenslanders can only be healthy if we invest in good preventative health and health promotion programs, as well as continuing our investment in the Advancing Education action plan. Finally, I pay tribute to all volunteers and staff of the National Stroke Foundation and the many other health promotion community organisations that help to make the healthy choices the easy choices.