




Speech By
Mark Ryan

MEMBER FOR MORAYFIELD

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Mental Health Services

 **Mr RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (2.52 pm): Following the nightmare years of the Newman-Nicholls government which saw mental health services cut in Queensland, I have been calling for more support for those people who need mental health support. Many Queenslanders were rightly horrified by the Newman-Nicholls LNP government's reckless decision to close the Barrett Adolescent Centre. It was a poor decision that had tragic consequences. Unlike the former LNP government, I am very proud to be part of a government that listens and gets on with the job of getting people the help they need. That is why I am very proud of the recent announcement by the Palaszczuk Labor government to adopt the recommendation of the commission of inquiry into the Barrett Adolescent Centre to build a new bed based extended treatment and rehabilitation facility for young people. I am very pleased that the Minister for Health is in the chamber this afternoon because he has been instrumental in ensuring that we deliver those additional mental health supports to young people in Queensland.

I am very pleased to see that this new support facility will be built on the Prince Charles Hospital campus on the north side of Brisbane which is only 30 minutes from Caboolture. This new support facility will be funded by the Palaszczuk Labor government and construction is due to begin next year. I note that over the coming months the government will work closely with experts, consumers and families to come up with a specific design for the facility. I welcome this approach because our government is a government of consultation and listening unlike the former LNP government, which was told by so many people—by patients, by experts, by the families of patients—about the importance of extended treatment and rehabilitation facilities for young people. The LNP did not listen and left a massive gap in the support services available to young Queenslanders with mental health needs.

This new bed based extended treatment and rehabilitation centre on the Prince Charles Hospital campus grounds will specifically provide support for young people living with severe and complex mental health issues. This government, the Palaszczuk Labor government, knows that a suite of treatment and rehabilitation supports are needed to provide a holistic approach to address the mental health needs of young people. A continuum of care is needed to enable our young people to get the support they need. While I am very proud that a new bed based extended treatment and rehabilitation centre will be built on the north side of Brisbane, I am also very proud that this Palaszczuk Labor government is also investing \$350 million in our five-year mental health plan. This investment includes more support for alcohol and drug support services and new community based youth mental health teams on the ground across Queensland. I commend the Palaszczuk Labor government for working hard to provide extra services and resources to support at-risk local adolescents in the most appropriate way.