



Speech By  
**Hon. Cameron Dick**


**MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE**

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS**

**Youth Mental Health**

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (9.48 am): Later today the Treasurer will release the Palaszczuk government's third budget. It will be a great budget for youth mental health, heralding the single biggest capital investment in youth mental health in at least a decade. In this budget the Palaszczuk government is committing \$68.2 million over four years to build a new extended treatment facility for young people at the Prince Charles Hospital. This facility will finally replace the Barrett Adolescent Centre. That is not all these funds will do. They will also be used to build new facilities that will significantly improve the delivery of mental health care in Queensland.

The Palaszczuk government will also build two new six-bed step-up step-down facilities for young people and establish two new day program services at Logan and the Gold Coast with capacity for 16 attendees each. These new facilities will also help provide transition for young people who may be leaving the new facility at the Prince Charles Hospital campus to return home. They will complement the additional youth mental health services the Palaszczuk government has also established such as residential rehabilitation services in Townsville.

These new services provide what the Barrett families have told us: it cannot be just one facility. We need a broader continuum of services that help work for young people at different stages of their lives and different stages of their recovery. These investments are a powerful commitment by our government and its Treasurer. It must be said that this is a major contrast from his predecessor, the former treasurer and now Leader of the Opposition. Queensland will not forget the record of the Leader of the Opposition when it comes to mental health. As the national Productivity Commission has found, when he was treasurer the Leader of the Opposition slashed \$45 million from our state's mental health budget—the single largest cut to mental health spending ever recorded by any state or territory. As the national Productivity Commission has found, under the Leader of the Opposition's tenure as treasurer he reduced mental health staff.

As the independent Barrett commission of inquiry found, when he was treasurer he demanded between \$100 million to \$120 million in savings from Queensland Health in just three months. As the commission of inquiry made clear, these cuts meant that the long-planned replacement to the Barrett centre was thrown in the bin, and we all know the tragic consequences that resulted. I encourage all members to reflect on these matters today, particularly in the area of youth mental health, because one could not get a clearer contrast between the Palaszczuk Labor government and the Newman LNP government in which the Leader of the Opposition served as treasurer. The only good thing to come out of all of this is that young Queenslanders with severe mental illness will now be the beneficiaries.