



Speech By  
**Hon. Cameron Dick**


**MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE**

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Record of Proceedings, 6 September 2017

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**Marriage**

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (2.26 pm): On 29 August 2017 I was pleased to announce the Palaszczuk government would provide \$338,000 in funding to four non-government organisations to support the mental health of LGBTIQ Queenslanders ahead of the Turnbull government's expensive and shambolic marriage equality survey. Many individuals and community organisations told the Turnbull government that this vote presents a very real potential to expose harmful and homophobic comments at a personal and community wide level.

While the Prime Minister has ignored those concerns, the Palaszczuk government has responded, providing these funds to boost NGO services. We are providing a funding boost to Lifeline, Kids Helpline, the Queensland AIDS Council and the Open Doors Youth Service to help deal with any extra demand that may occur between now and the end of November, when the marriage equality survey is due to be completed. This is the Queensland government's no-harm campaign. We want any person struggling with the debate to know they can reach out and seek support.

On the continuum of mental health services, these community organisations play an important role as a first point of contact for many people who are struggling. They are accessible and non-judgemental services and often anonymous. For many Queenslanders, all they need is a sympathetic ear at the other end of the phone. For others, these services can play a life-saving entry point into a structured psychological and/or mental health environment.

The Palaszczuk government recognises the important role that non-government organisations provide in the wellbeing of not just the LGBTIQ community but all Queenslanders. This is a point of difference—a great point of difference—between our government and the Newman LNP government in which the Leader of the Opposition served as treasurer. The Newman government stripped funding from LGBTIQ organisations overnight and they slapped gag orders on organisations they continued to fund. The Leader of the Opposition as the then treasurer oversaw an \$8 million cut in annual grants to community organisations to help support preventative health programs—programs that supported alcohol and drug intervention activities, community nutritionists and improved Indigenous child health. No organisation was safe from the cuts inflicted by the member for Clayfield when he was treasurer.

Those opposite are fond of criticising government reviews, but I have not heard them criticise the biggest review of them all—the federal government's shambolic \$122 million non-compulsory, non-binding postal survey which may lead to a conscience vote. Next week the annual Brisbane Pride Festival commences. In the words of Peter Black, the director for the Queensland equality campaign, 'LGBTIQ Australians are incredibly resilient and it is important during this time, especially, to look out for one another.' The community can look out for one another in the knowledge that they will be supported by the Palaszczuk Labor government. I call on all in this parliament to support the government in that aim.