



Speech By  
**Hon. Cameron Dick**


**MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE**

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Record of Proceedings, 10 October 2017

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS**

**Mental Health Week**

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (10.00 am): This week is Mental Health Week, a great opportunity for all Queenslanders to get involved and show that they value mental health, wellbeing and resilience. The Palaszczuk Labor government is committed to restoring front-line services cut by the LNP when they were in government that adversely impacted on mental health services.

We are getting on with the job of rebuilding our intensive mental health programs for young people which were gutted by the LNP. Members will be aware that in 2014 the former LNP government closed the Barrett Adolescent Centre without replacement. Members will also be aware that the Labor Party went to the 2015 election with a clear commitment to rebuild this facility and to ensure that the vital services it delivered were restored.

Members will also be aware that in 2016 the Barrett Adolescent Centre Commission of Inquiry recommended that the government consider the construction of a new extended treatment facility for young people experiencing severe mental illness. The Palaszczuk government accepted this recommendation and in our most recent budget allocated \$68.2 million to build this facility and a range of associated transitional facilities. We gave a commitment to the people of Queensland and we are honouring that commitment.

I am pleased to inform the House that early works for a new adolescent mental health facility at the Prince Charles Hospital will go out to tender today. These early works will deliver the first physical works at the site of the new centre to commence in December. In particular, these works will prepare the site and make the necessary changes to car parking to enable the facility to be built with no net loss of car parking at the Prince Charles Hospital campus.

As members will be aware, this new facility will provide a statewide extended treatment and rehabilitation unit for young people with severe and complex mental illness. This specialised facility will ensure vulnerable young people from all over the state are able to access healthcare services at the right time to assist them to recover and return to their family, friends and community.

I can advise the House that collaboration with families of former patients of the Barrett Adolescent Centre and with the Department of Education and Training has been an integral component in getting this project off the ground. This approach recognises lessons learned from the past including failures but also the importance of access to quality education and links to the local community. Ensuring young Queenslanders can access the services they need when they need them is vital to improving mental health outcomes for adolescents. I look forward to updating the House on this essential and important project as progress continues.