



Speech By  
**Brent Mickelberg**


**MEMBER FOR BUDERIM**

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**ADJOURNMENT**

**Sunshine Coast Mind and Neuroscience—Thompson Institute**

 **Mr MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (7.06 pm): I rise to speak about the invaluable work of the Sunshine Coast Mind and Neuroscience—Thompson Institute, which is part of the University of the Sunshine Coast. The Thompson Institute conducts world-leading neurological research and combines this with teaching and clinical outreach services in the areas of ageing, dementia and mental health issues related to youth and adolescents.

The Sunshine Coast is a hotspot for youth suicide and is also the location of a large number of ageing people who have their own mental health challenges. The Sunshine Coast also has as a percentage of its population the largest number of veterans and veterans' families. Indeed, the director of the Thompson Institute, Professor Jim Lagopoulos, has spoken on the potential link between traumatic experiences and the consequent effect on the genetic make-up of those who suffer from such illnesses, which may result in effects on their children. Surely, the research of such matters should be a priority for governments at all levels.

Mental illness does not discriminate. We are all susceptible at all stages of our lives, but mental illness can be treated with appropriate medical intervention. It is vital that we invest time and money to better understand, treat and train in this space. The Thompson Institute provides the model and the way forward to do that. To date, this work has been funded thanks to the University of the Sunshine Coast, \$5 million from the federal government and a considerable contribution from Sunshine Coast philanthropists Roy and Nola Thompson.

I table for the House my question on notice No. 251, in which I call upon the government to match the opposition's \$1 million funding commitment to the Thompson Institute. The government's response to my question was a thoughtless buck-pass to another minister. That response was disappointing, but not surprising. I am sick and tired of this government trying to avoid its responsibilities and blame others. Queenslanders are sick and tired of politicians playing politics on issues that should be above such tactics.

*Tabled paper:* Question on notice No. 251 of 2018 [\[669\]](#).

In my maiden speech I spoke about my experience with PTSD after I returned from deployment in Afghanistan. I am passionate about ensuring that the challenge of mental health is addressed, because I do not want to see anyone feel like they do not have a way out when they are afflicted with the demons of PTSD or depression.

This morning, the Premier stated that she wanted all levels of government to work together. Despite that sentiment, the Palaszczuk government has sat on its hands and watched the federal government, industry and even philanthropists do the job of the state government. It is time for those opposite to stand up and commit to the LNP's promise of \$1 million in funding for the Thompson Institute. Again, I call on the Palaszczuk Labor government to match the LNP's commitment and provide the Thompson Institute with the support that is so dearly needed so that, as a community, we can fight the scourge that is mental illness.