




Speech By
Hon. Mark Ryan

MEMBER FOR MORAYFIELD

Record of Proceedings, 2 May 2019

HEALTH AND WELLBEING QUEENSLAND BILL

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services) (4.51 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on the Health and Wellbeing Queensland Bill 2019. I note that one of the main purposes of the bill is to establish a legislative framework for a statutory health promotion agency to be known as Health and Wellbeing Queensland. This follows our government's election commitment to establish a statutory public health commission to tackle Queensland's obesity and chronic disease rates to support Queenslanders right across our state. This is a worthy initiative, because we know that these strategies work. We know that the work of statutory public health commissions lead to better health outcomes for the communities within their jurisdiction. We know that the strategies and initiatives that they develop contribute to better health outcomes. Ultimately, that is a worthy goal and vision for the people of Queensland.

Chronic diseases can have dramatic and devastating effects on people's wellbeing and lifestyle. Those diseases can contribute to more significant health conditions if left untreated or not managed appropriately. Mr Deputy Speaker, as you are aware given your professional background, in many instances the impact of chronic disease can be avoided by people making good lifestyle choices around healthy living and exercise. In particular I note that chronic diseases such as diabetes, health disease and cancer have common risk factors including obesity, low physical activity, poor nutrition and smoking. Often those risk factors are caused by lifestyle related behaviours that, in turn, are influenced by social determinants of health, including early years development, education, employment and working conditions, housing, environment, infrastructure, access to affordable healthy food and access to and use of health services.

Health and Wellbeing Queensland will target its activities to places of need, perhaps due to their remoteness, the demographic make-up of their communities or socio-economic disadvantage. On that point, I note the great work being done by health providers in the Caboolture region. The Caboolture region has an unfortunate story, which is that it is one of the leaders in both our state and nation when it comes to some chronic health diseases. As I have mentioned previously, we know that that impacts on people's lifestyle, wellbeing and, of course, future health outcomes. Therefore, this bill is particularly relevant to the community that I represent in this parliament. I know that the people of Caboolture will be grateful for the additional support, strategies and initiatives that Health and Wellbeing Queensland will work on as part of its mission to improve wellbeing for all Queenslanders.

I wish to deviate to make a statement. Earlier today in the House the member for Mudgeeraba asked a question in relation to police evidence. In response, the Premier offered that if the member wanted more information she could ask me, the police minister, for that information. I have not had a request for more information from the member. However, in the interests of providing information, I can confirm police advice that State Crime Command is still investigating the matter. Further, in the interests of clarifying earlier advice to the Premier, I can advise that the police have undertaken an inquiry in relation to the matter, rather than an Ethical Standards Command review. However, police advise that

as those investigations are ongoing the Queensland Police Service can make no further comment at this time about the investigation or any further commentary in relation to any exhibits that may be related to the investigation.

I return to the bill. This is a worthy initiative. I am very pleased to speak to this bill. It will provide great outcomes for the people of the Caboolture region. I am very happy to put my name on the record as a supporter of the Health and Wellbeing Queensland Bill 2019.