




Speech By
Hon. Yvette D'Ath

MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Mental Health Services

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (9.52 am): Queensland has a world-class public mental health system that is accessible, reliable, ready and able to adapt to crisis situations like a global pandemic. There is no doubt that this pandemic is taking its toll on people's mental health around the world. In response, national cabinet has endorsed a National Mental Health and Wellbeing Pandemic Response Plan. The Palaszczuk government acted early in the pandemic to provide more than \$30 million in urgent support to Queensland's community based health and mental health and alcohol and other drug services. More recently we have included in Queensland's economic strategy for recovery an additional \$46.5 million for localised mental health community treatment and support services.

What we need to respond to are not just the mental health impacts of the pandemic itself; our health system will also need to provide mental health support for people hit by the economic impact of the global COVID-19 economic downturn. That is why the additional mental health funding provided in our economic recovery strategy will support targeted responses in those areas most affected by the economic impacts of the pandemic. It also includes grants to up to 45 rural councils, as I indicated yesterday, boosting the capacity of existing NGO alcohol and other drugs residential rehabilitation services, enhancing specialist mental health responses for people in quarantine, expanding the mental health co-responder service and establishing a new online therapy program for young people. On top of this, the Palaszczuk government has provided around \$12.54 million to organisations to support Queenslanders affected by the pandemic.

Last year's budget included an additional \$80.1 million over four years to support a whole-of-government strategy to reduce suicides in Queensland. This included an extra \$62 million for interventions like safe haven cafes and crisis support. This Labor Palaszczuk government is providing the support that Queenslanders need through this stressful time whenever they need it.