




Speech By
Hon. Yvette D'Ath

MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Mental Health Week

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (10.18 am): We are reminded daily how COVID-19 continues to inflict its impact on our health systems, on economies and on families and individuals. The economic and social changes that have occurred across the globe over the past 20 months have been challenging and, for many, distressing. People are worried about their jobs, their loved ones and the uncertainty that has come with the pandemic. The disruption to our social lives has been difficult, especially for young Queenslanders. In every jurisdiction in Australia we are seeing more people accessing state funded health services and increased presentations for mental health conditions including anxiety, depression and eating disorders.

The Palaszczuk government is ensuring all Queenslanders have access to the mental health services they need. Our post-pandemic response includes a \$74.5 million mental health and wellbeing community package. This is part of the Queensland government's \$2 billion economic recovery package announced last year. This package includes \$28 million for non-government community based providers to rapidly respond to community needs and \$46.5 million to supplement Public Service provider supports to address longer term impacts of the pandemic through targeted evidence based initiatives.

This includes additional community mental health, drugs and alcohol treatment and support responses, additional capacity within existing alcohol and other drugs residential rehabilitation services and localised and youth mental health initiatives. This is on top of the Palaszczuk government's continued investment in mental health services through initiatives delivered via Queensland Health's \$350 million Connecting Care to Recovery 2016-2021 mental health, alcohol and other drugs plan; suicide prevention crisis responses and enhanced services funded with \$61.9 million over four years under the 2018-19 state budget; and \$205.8 million in capital projects to establish 89 new mental health beds and upgrade existing inpatient and subacute treatment beds across Queensland.

October is National Mental Health Month and this week is Queensland Mental Health Week. I would like to personally thank the frontline mental health workers and community service providers who continue to work tirelessly to improve the mental health of Queenslanders. The theme of Queensland Mental Health Week is 'Take time for mental health'. Now is the time for us all to consider what we can do personally to improve our wellbeing. Whether it is taking time out to appreciate simple pleasures, time with loved ones, family and friends or seeking—

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Kawana, you will cease your interjections.

Mrs D'ATH:—professional support, there is always something we can do. I ask all members to manage not only their physical wellbeing but also their mental wellbeing and to look at those around them—friends, family, loved ones and work colleagues. If members think they are struggling to reach

out, ask R U OK? Let us not leave it to one single day to ask R U OK? It is our responsibility to do that each and every day where we believe someone needs our support. I encourage all Queenslanders to take the time for their mental health and participate in one of the many communities events around the state.