



Speech By
Hon. Yvette D'Ath

MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE

Record of Proceedings, 23 June 2022

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Mental Health Services

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (9.54 am): One in six Australians are right now experiencing depression or anxiety or both. One in eight Australians are right now experiencing high or very high psychological distress. For many, COVID-19, multiple bushfire seasons and significant flood events have also brought new and additional mental health challenges. Mental health and crisis support services have never been more vital.

We have listened. We have listened to the community, we have listened to our frontline health professionals, and we have listened to the organisations and people who recounted personal stories of their mental health and substance use disorders during the inquiry into the opportunities to improve mental health outcomes for Queenslanders. While the government will table its response to the committee report in the near future, we are not delaying the investment that needs to be delivered to get on with the job.

We have delivered the largest investment this state has ever seen in mental health, alcohol and other drug services—\$1.645 billion and \$28.5 million in capital spending over the next five years. This investment will boost the delivery of high-quality, person centred care across the state and respond to the recommendations arising from the inquiry.

Our investment will add more than 390 new hospital and community based beds and 1,400 staff to our mental health, alcohol and other drugs system—a move endorsed by the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists. We will also commission an additional four mental health co-responder services in the Darling Downs, Mackay, Wide Bay and Sunshine Coast hospital and health services as part of the \$1.1 billion Queensland Ambulance Service budget.

Queenslanders can be assured we have left no stone unturned. Earlier this year the inquiry provided key recommendations to expand and enhance mental health services across the state. This year's budget addresses many of these recommendations, namely through increased funding for mental health, alcohol and other drug services in Queensland; more funding targeting services for infants, children and young people and their families; strengthening the capacity of existing community based services; and bridging the gap in the delivery of inpatient services for children, adolescents and young adults.

Over the next five years our record investment will target priority areas including \$239.4 million to support the needs of children, adolescents, young people and their families with mental illness and problematic substance use; \$219 million for more specialist alcohol and other drug treatment and harm reduction services across Queensland; \$191.1 million for adult and older person mental health; \$64.7 million to establish additional mother baby acute inpatient beds and enhance specialist community based perinatal and infant mental health services; \$61 million to support mental health services for First Nations people; and \$64 million to deliver community psychological support services. This investment will change thousands of lives. We want Queenslanders to know they are not on this journey alone.