




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) (9.53 am): Every year hundreds of Queenslanders and their families are touched by tragedies associated with mental illness. According to Beyond Blue, more than 3,000 people die by suicide in Australia each year with three times as many men as women taking their own lives. Suicide affects even the most prominent people in our society, and with the sad passing of Paul Green from suicide we are reminded of the devastating impacts for individuals, families and sometimes entire communities. I pass on my condolences to Paul Green's family and friends.

Mental health does not discriminate. Anyone can find themselves needing support. This is one of the many reasons mental health is a major priority for the Palaszczuk government. Our latest state budget includes a \$1.6 billion boost for mental health services, the biggest increase to mental health funding in Queensland's history. It will be guided by people with lived experience of mental illness.

We are determined to tackle mental ill health and suicide through our whole-of-government *Every life: the Queensland suicide prevention plan*. Based on the best evidence, our plan details the critical shifts needed to reduce suicide in Queensland through partnerships with government and non-government agencies as well as community and private sectors and those with lived experience. It includes 60 cross-agency actions recognising that effective suicide prevention occurs far beyond the health system and is supported by funding of \$80.1 million over four years from 2019-20 and beyond.

Earlier this year on behalf of the government I signed a new bilateral agreement with the Commonwealth government to co-fund \$260 million in new mental health and suicide prevention services for Queensland over the next four years. We will continue to work with the Commonwealth and other stakeholders to tackle the scourge of suicide. We are also investing in new facilities across Queensland which provide dedicated mental health services such as Jacaranda Place at the Prince Charles Hospital, the Crisis Stabilisation Unit at the Robina Hospital and the Cairns mental health unit now under construction.

I want all Queenslanders experiencing mental health issues to know that they are not alone; help is available. Queensland Health provides funding to a range of NGOs for mental health crisis support including Head to Health services and crisis support spaces. Anyone experiencing a crisis should seek help via Lifeline, Beyond Blue or MensLine. As we progress our \$1.6 billion mental health package we are determined to seize the historic opportunity we have to shape mental health outcomes for the better.