




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) (9.51 am): This week is Queensland Mental Health Week. Hundreds of events, activities and conversations are occurring across the state, focusing on the importance of good mental health and wellbeing in leading a fulfilling life. The Palaszczuk government is deeply committed to improving the mental health and wellbeing of all Queenslanders.

In December 2021 I launched the inquiry into the opportunities to improve mental health outcomes for Queenslanders to understand the demands on our mental health, alcohol and other drug system and most importantly identify ways to enhance how we support people in need. That is why in June this year the Palaszczuk government announced the largest investment this state has ever seen in mental health, alcohol and other drug services—\$1.645 billion and \$28.5 million over the next five years—to enable implementation of the 57 recommendations from the inquiry. Implementation of the recommendations will ensure our mental health, alcohol and other drug service system delivers the right services at the right time to Queenslanders.

Today, I am pleased to launch two plans that articulate how our government will improve Queenslanders' access to equitable and effective mental health, alcohol and other drug support. Queensland Health's new five-year plan for mental health, alcohol and other drug services—Better Care Together—focuses on building and enhancing state funded services across key priority areas identified through the inquiry, including: \$305 million to support children, adolescents and young people; \$365 million to support adult and older person mental health treatment services and facilities; \$217 million to support people experiencing problematic alcohol and other drug use; \$177 million to prioritise mental health crisis response and suicide prevention services; \$81 million to improve treatment, care and support for new parents and infants; \$63 million to deliver improved services for First Nations peoples; and \$33 million to enhance and expand services for people experiencing eating disorders.

Over the next five years these investments will cover every corner of our community, delivering high-quality, person-centred care, irrelevant of location. It will see the right mix of community and hospital-based services at the right time, and respond to the needs of individuals, their families and communities. More than 1,400 new staff will be required to operationalise the plan. We know that investments of this kind not only impacts those experiencing mental health issues but also their families, friends and loved ones. We are dedicated to making these services available both now and well into the future.

Today, I am also pleased to launch Achieving Balance, our whole-of-government plan for alcohol and other drugs developed by the Queensland Mental Health Commission. The inquiry highlighted for government to work across agencies and sectors to address the determinants of mental health and wellbeing which lie beyond the confines of the health system. Achieving Balance is a subplan of Shifting

Minds, the Palaszczuk government's whole-of-government approach to mental health and wellbeing. Achieving Balance sets out a whole-of-government approach to guide Queensland's efforts and commitment to reducing and preventing the individual, family, social and economic impacts of problematic alcohol and other drug use. This is a critical moment in our state's mental health journey. I know the decisions and investments we are making now will help not only people today but also future generations.