



Speech By  
**Joseph Kelly**


**MEMBER FOR GREENSLOPES**

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Record of Proceedings, 16 November 2023

**PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT**

**Mental Health Services**

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (2.43 pm): Last year, I had the immense honour and privilege of leading the government's inquiry into the opportunities to improve mental health outcomes for Queenslanders, and I want to provide an update for the House. I was particularly pleased with recommendation 1b that the Queensland government 'creates a dedicated funding stream for mental health and alcohol and other drug services and explores all options to create it'. I am pleased to report to the House that—as we all know—that recommendation has been picked up in full by the government and implemented. This is why we now have a \$1.645 billion levy to spend over five years.

Sadly, the LNP did not support that levy, nor did the Greens, for that matter. They spent a lot of time in the community talking about taxing billionaires, but the first chance they got to do it, they did not bother to do it. I will give the member for Maiwar his due, at the 11th hour he came in here and voted for it and had to undo all the damage done by the member for South Brisbane. Let's look at what it is funding: 252 more frontline workers; \$47.9 million to boost alcohol and drug and other services; and \$40 million to deliver the most comprehensive network of eating disorder services in Queensland's history; and \$1.8 million over five years for Stepping Stone Clubhouse, an organisation that does fantastic and amazing work in my community. They are now taking that work to the north side of Brisbane and supporting other Stepping Stone Clubhouses around the state, as well. There is also \$47 million of investment to deliver new clinicians to provide clinical in-reach into all existing headspace centres. We know that there are more headspace centres being built. One of the things we know clearly from that inquiry is that the majority of people who will develop mental health issues will do so between the ages of 12 and 25—that is exactly where we have to be spending the majority of our resources.

This week, which is Perinatal Mental Health Week, we have committed \$20 million to increase community-based perinatal and infant mental health treatment services. We have to provide that intervention and care at the very early stages of life to prevent people from developing lifelong mental illnesses or alcohol and other drug dependencies, which have massive impacts on the individuals, their families and the entire community. We know, because the LNP voted against this funding, that it is under threat. If the Crisafulli LNP government are elected next year they will be supported by the Greens and they will shut this down. They will not continue this important work. Only Labor will deliver better services for people who suffer from mental illness and are afflicted by alcohol and other drug addictions.