



Speech By  
**Hon. Shannon Fentiman**


**MEMBER FOR WATERFORD**

---

Record of Proceedings, 15 June 2023

## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS**

### **Budget, Mental Health Services**

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance Services and Minister for Women) (9.51 am): I am so proud to be part of a government that recognises the importance of mental health and wellbeing. In the next financial year we will be investing over \$300 million to improve Queensland's mental health, alcohol and other drugs services. This is only possible because of our mental health levy on big business, providing sustainable long-term funding to this critical area of our health system. This mental health levy is delivering an unprecedented \$1.6 billion of additional funding over five years. This will deliver new and expanded services, more beds, more community treatment and support, delivering on our commitment to provide safe and quality services closer to home.

We know that early intervention can result in lifelong wellbeing, which is why we are expanding perinatal and infant mental health nurses right across our state. This builds upon the eight statewide mother-baby beds established at Catherine's House this year that are all up and running. We are investing \$47 million during the next financial year in services for adolescents and young people, including an existing acute response team. Importantly, \$11.4 million is being invested to deliver improved mental health services for our First Nations community. We are committed to supporting people experiencing mental health crisis before it turns to tragedy.

An amount of \$15.9 million will be delivering six new crisis support spaces and enhancing existing crisis support spaces for people in mental health crisis and at risk of suicide. A top priority of mine is to further expand the mental health co-responder model that pairs senior mental health clinicians with paramedic call-outs, and we will continue to work to explore opportunities to expand mental health and police co-responder models.

We are supporting people in regional areas through additional acute mental health beds at Hervey Bay Hospital and Cairns Hospital and delivering new digital technologies to support seamless care experiences. There is \$47.9 million that will deliver much needed alcohol and other drugs treatment services, uplifting our hardworking community services and alcohol and drug responses in emergency departments.

None of this is possible without the wonderful allied health professionals delivering these important initiatives. That is why we have a range of strategies to support the mental health workforce, including supporting more Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander mental health workers and more peer support workers. This investment is a game changer for mental health outcomes in Queensland. The government is working hard to ensure individuals and their families and carers can access holistic, comprehensive care when they need it most.