



Speech By  
**Hon. Shannon Fentiman**


**MEMBER FOR WATERFORD**

---

Record of Proceedings, 10 October 2023

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**Mental Health Services**

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance Services and Minister for Women) (9.59 am): Today on World Mental Health Day I want to take the opportunity to acknowledge and pay tribute to the people in Queensland and around the world who grapple with their mental health every single day. I want to acknowledge the mental health professionals who spend their life improving the lives of those around them. To those people with lived experience, their families, carers and significant others, I say thank you. Their invaluable contribution is now driving reform to make our systems more responsive and person centred.

I want to pay tribute today to those struggling with alcohol and substance misuse. We know that poor mental health and problematic alcohol and substance use can have a profound impact on families, workplaces and communities. Our mental health, alcohol and other drugs systems must be supported to ensure they provide the highest quality of care to those who need it most. That is why this Mental Health Week I will be announcing a series of initiatives being rolled out across Queensland by the Palaszczuk government that are possible thanks to our mental health levy and our \$1.64 billion Better Care Together plan.

Our unprecedented sustainably funded investment in mental health and wellbeing is delivering better outcomes for people right across the state, and today I am proud to announce we will continue to work to strengthen our systems. When people are ready to seek help for their problematic alcohol and substance use, they need to know where to find a service and that they will be readily available. I can announce today that this year our government will invest \$47.9 million into boosting residential rehabilitation and withdrawal management services to deliver safer, person centred, contemporary models of care. This funding will also support the expansion of the drug and alcohol brief intervention teams in hospital emergency departments and inpatient specialists to better support people presenting with substance use issues and support our hospital workforces.

We are continuing to boost the capacity of ADIS, our statewide 24/7 drug and alcohol support service, to deliver tailored phone and online support for anyone concerned about their own or someone else's substance use. We will continue to ensure those with lived experience inform our policy, planning and service improvement. This almost \$50 million investment will go towards hiring a further 41 frontline staff across alcohol and other drug treatment services. In addition, we are investing a further \$1 million into the 'Keep an eye on your drinking' social marketing campaign, which aims to reduce risky alcohol consumption among Queenslanders.

Building awareness and supporting the community to understand problematic substance use as a complex social and health issue is critical to reducing stigma and discrimination. Last year one in three Queenslanders—that is one and a half million people—exceeded the risky drinking guideline. This phase of the campaign will expand the message across a wider range of social media platforms, help

increase community understanding of the risks of excessive alcohol consumption and drive a cultural shift towards healthier behaviours. Together, each of us can help create a Queensland that is better attuned to the needs of the mental health of our communities, particularly when it comes to alcohol and other drug treatment and support.