




Speech By
Hon. Yvette D'Ath

MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE

Record of Proceedings, 21 February 2023

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Youth Crime

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (10.10 am): The Palaszczuk government is committed to keeping the community safe and tackling the causes of crime, including youth crime. Our youth justice reforms show that we are committed to strengthening the response to serious offending by young people. Evidence shows that many young people who are at risk of entering or who are in the youth justice system have an underlying disability, mental illness or history of drug and alcohol use. To keep our community safe, it is important that we identify and target any underlying health issues that may influence a young person to offend.

For young people at risk of being engaged with or in the youth justice system, Queensland Health provides support across the state via our forensic child and youth mental health services. These services work with young people who are in the community with no Youth Justice contact through to those who have been charged, are appearing at court, are in detention or are on supervised orders in the community. These services include: court liaison services, which provide specialist mental health and forensic assessments, screening and advice regarding young people before the court or in custody at a youth detention centre; comprehensive mental health, alcohol and other drug assessment and treatment at Brisbane, West Moreton and Cleveland youth detention centres; specialised assessments, treatment and intervention planning support to community child and youth mental health services and youth justice services, as well as mental health support for young people remanded in watch houses.

The Palaszczuk government's record \$1.645 billion investment in mental health, alcohol and other drug services across Queensland will further target some of these complex causes of offending, helping young people and keeping communities safe. Under Better Care Together, we will invest almost \$260 million in child, adolescent and young people mental health initiatives such as expanding community-based treatment services like the Assertive Mobile Youth Outreach Services for young people unable to access traditional office-based services; establishing new early psychosis services and acute crisis response teams as well as enhancing existing services; providing specialist clinical and liaison in-reach services to new and existing headspace centres across Queensland, in partnership with the Commonwealth government; investing \$16.4 million to expand our existing forensic mental health services and youth services; and investing \$1.76 million in Project Solus, an initiative to identify and manage young people with mental health issues at risk of grievance fuelled violence. We will also deliver a new 10-bed alcohol and drug residential rehabilitation facility for young people in Cairns in the second half of 2024.

We do not apologise for taking strong action to keep our communities safe. This is why we have strong laws and take action to hold offenders to account and provide the health services they need to address the causes of their offending.