



Speech By  
**Hon. Yvette D'Ath**


**MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE**

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Record of Proceedings, 28 March 2023

## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS**

### **Perinatal Mental Health Services**

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (10.05 am): Many of us in this chamber have experienced the life changes that occur when a baby comes into the world. It can be joyful and overwhelming, and sometimes all at once. We know that during this period one in five mums and one in 10 dads will experience some form of perinatal mental health challenge. While our hospitals and health services provide a range of perinatal mental health services, sometimes specialist support is needed.

When the Palaszczuk government established the Mental Health Select Committee in December 2021, we were determined to shine a light on how we can make better the lives of Queenslanders living with various mental health disorders and the services we provide them. One of the recommendations from the committee was to expand perinatal mental health services. Last week our government delivered a significant initiative to achieve this. On Wednesday I was honoured to join Mater Health to officially open Catherine's House at the Mater Mothers' Hospital campus. Catherine's House is a perinatal mental healthcare facility that will provide a broad spectrum of care, made possible by a partnership between Mater Health, the Palaszczuk government and generous community donations.

The Palaszczuk government has invested \$7 million in capital funding and more than \$11 million in annual operational funding to deliver eight new public health beds for mums who need specialist inpatient mental health support from a dedicated mother and baby unit. As I heard last week from mums and families who have experienced severe perinatal mental health disorders, the treatments received in mother and baby units save and change lives. They are the preferred model of support for mothers experiencing severe perinatal mental health challenges. By co-locating mother and baby, a mum can receive specialised treatment while continuing to care for her baby in a safe and supported environment. Our investment with Mater Health will increase the number of public mother and baby beds in Queensland to 12 over the coming months. Just like the Lavender Mother and Baby Unit the Palaszczuk government delivered in 2017, the new beds at Catherine's House will be available to all people across Queensland via referral from a health professional. I am proud to be part of a government which continues to grow and invest in mental health services, backed by a record \$1.645 billion investment.