




Speech By
Margaret Nightingale

MEMBER FOR INALA

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Mental Health Services

 **Ms NIGHTINGALE** (Inala—ALP) (2.42 pm): I start by expressing my sincere condolences to the families, carers and loved ones who have suffered tragic losses in recent events across the nation. Those events reinforce that the need for robust mental health services has never been more pressing. I am proud of the action that the Miles government is taking on mental health. We are delivering through our \$1.6 billion Better Care Together plan—delivering more beds, more staff and more services, including the largest ever investment in youth mental health services with a \$330 million commitment made possible through the mental health levy.

Our action on mental health stands in stark contrast to that of those opposite, whose silence on mental health is deafening. It is not enough to simply criticise from the sidelines and oppose without offering alternatives. The people of Queensland deserve better. They deserve to hear what the plans are of those opposite, but I recognise that for that to happen the LNP would first need a plan and it is clear they have none. It is abundantly clear that the Leader of the Opposition lacks the vision, the compassion and the political will to deal with this important issue. Let's not forget their track record when they were in power. This year marks 10 years since the LNP devastatingly closed the Barrett adolescent centre, then Queensland's only residential facility for adolescents with chronic and severe mental illness.

Mr KELLY: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I believe the acting manager of opposition business—I assume he is in that position; if he is not, he is interjecting out of his own seat—has used unparliamentary language in his interjection.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Bush): Member, if you have used unparliamentary language I ask that you withdraw.

Mr MICKELBERG: To aid the House I will withdraw.

Ms NIGHTINGALE: They closed the only facility that supported young people with complex and severe mental health needs.

Government members: Shame!

Ms NIGHTINGALE: It was a shame and I was right there. They ignored expert recommendations. They ignored the pleas of families, clinicians and the young patients themselves. Instead, they cut. We remember the tragic consequences of their disregard for youth mental health then and we remember it now.

I urge the member for Broadwater, who wishes to be premier, to let the people of Queensland know whether they plan to support the mental health levy and if they plan to cut, like they have done so devastatingly before. The people of Queensland deserve better from them. If the Leader of the Opposition cannot deliver so much as an idea then he cannot deliver for the people of Queensland.