




Speech By
Hon. Shannon Fentiman

MEMBER FOR WATERFORD

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Mental Health Services; Fagan, Mr C

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance Services and Minister for Women) (9.41 am): As Queensland's Minister for Mental Health, I am immensely proud of the investments we are making. Our nation-leading mental health levy means that we can deliver our Better Care Together plan, which this year alone will deliver a \$457 million boost to mental health services across Queensland. Today I am proud to table an update on our mental health investments for the next financial year.

Tabled paper: Extract, undated, from the Queensland Government Health Budget 2024-25, titled 'Mental health, alcohol and other drugs' [1060](#).

New and existing community- and hospital-based programs will be established or expanded so that we can continue to provide world-class care closer to home for everyone from children and young people to adults and older Queenslanders. We will also work with NGOs and community organisations to deliver three new residential alcohol and other drugs services, including a specialist service in Cairns for young people.

We know that eating disorders continue to be a concern for Queenslanders, particularly given the influence of social media. That is why we are working with community organisations to deliver innovative specialist services across the state. Along with the member for Nicklin and the member for Caloundra, I recently visited Mark Forbes and the team at endED to hear about the important work they do. Mark told me about the support community they have built and their work with the Butterfly Foundation to deliver Australia's first residential eating disorder service, Wandi Nerida. I am pleased that our investment in mental health includes \$1.2 million for their House of Hope, a therapeutic space for people with eating disorders and those who love them. Our investments will also support eating disorder services in Cairns, Townsville, the Darling Downs, West Moreton and on the Gold Coast and Sunshine Coast.

I am pleased to update the House that our mental health levy has generated more revenue than predicted. This revenue, generated over and above our Better Care Together allocations, is solely allocated to expanded and emergent mental health, alcohol and other drugs projects and initiatives, which allows us the flexibility to address issues when they arise to ensure we are supporting communities when they need it most. An example of this is our recent announcement of \$39 million to deliver 30 new mother and baby beds across six locations, which will mean that a mum and bub can stay together whilst mum receives the care she needs.

I would like to take a moment to acknowledge the individuals, their families, friends and support networks with lived and living experience of mental ill health. Their insights are invaluable in driving improvements across our mental health, alcohol and other drugs services.

I also take this opportunity to offer my heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of Cleveland Fagan. I am deeply saddened by his sudden passing. I was fortunate to work closely with Cleveland in his role as CEO of the Queensland Aboriginal and Islander Health Council. Cleveland played an instrumental role in championing the cause of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, not just here in Queensland but right across the nation. His greatest influence was always inclusive of the local community's rights as decision-makers and his contributions will be felt for decades to come. My thoughts are with his wife, Ruth; his daughters, Clevanna and Sara; and his family and colleagues across the health sector who have lost a great man too soon.

Mr SPEAKER: He was a great mind, a terrific community advocate and a great friend. Vale, Cleveland Fagan.