

Question on Notice
No. 1742
Asked on 11 October 2016

MR PEGG asked the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services (HON C R DICK) –

Will the Minister advise what steps the Palaszczuk Government is taking to support Queenslanders with their mental health?

ANSWER:

I thank the Honourable Member for Stretton for his question.

The recently announced *Connecting Care to Recovery 2016-2021, a plan for Queensland's State-funded mental health, alcohol and other drug services* sets out the directions and priorities for investment to guide the Government's mental health, alcohol and drug services system over the next five years.

The Palaszczuk Government is committed to improving our mental health and alcohol and other drug services and this new plan provides more than \$350 million in new investment to expand a range of services and offer more services, delivered in a range of settings, as close to home as possible and across the continuum of care.

The Palaszczuk Government's commitment to supporting Queenslanders with their mental health also starts with our young people and more than \$87 million (that is 25% of our \$350 million plan) is being directed to enhancements for children and young people. This Government has worked hard to rebuild and improve mental health services for young people and has established new youth treatment residential services in Townsville and Cairns. The Palaszczuk Government also recently announced a new statewide bed-based extended treatment and rehabilitation facility to support young people with severe and complex mental illness will be built on a site at The Prince Charles Hospital.

For our mental health services, the Palaszczuk Government is working collaboratively with Primary Health Networks, non-government and community organisations to reform and improve service delivery across five priority areas:

- access to appropriate services as close to home as practicable and at the optimal time;
- workforce development and optimisation of skills and scope;
- better use of ICT to enhance clinical practice, information sharing and performance reporting;
- early identification and intervention in response to suicide risk; and
- strengthening patients' rights in accordance with the *Mental Health Act 2016*.