

Question on Notice

No. 1240

Asked on 19 September 2018

MR R MOLHOEK asked the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services (HON DR S MILES) –

QUESTION

With reference to the Queensland HIV Action Plan 2016-2021—

Will the Minister outline the status of the priority action items listed and the amount of money allocated to the implementation of the plan from 2016-17 to 2020-21 (reported separately by year)?

ANSWER

Significant progress has been made in the five priority action areas of the *Queensland HIV Action Plan 2016-2021* which has been achieved through a combination of programs and services delivered through partnerships between Government and non-government organisations, and by primary care services.

The Palaszczuk Government has funded the Queensland HIV Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (QPrEP) trial as a prevention initiative which enabled up to 3000 Queenslanders at risk of acquiring HIV to access medication to prevent the acquisition of HIV. While we funded this trial, the Palaszczuk Government continued to lobby the Commonwealth Government to list PrEP medication on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme, which occurred on 1 April 2018.

Other prevention initiatives which are funded include the Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) program, which provides free preventive medication to people who may have been exposed to HIV. In the 2017-18 financial year, 936 PEP packs were dispensed.

Testing initiatives include the rapid HIV point of care testing program which has made testing easier and more accessible. In 2017 alone, this program provided 5,910 free HIV rapid tests at Queensland Sexual Health Clinics, general practices and Queensland Health-funded community-based organisations.

The funding for the prevention and treatment of HIV is complex, with costs borne by the Federal and State Governments. I am advised that in total, the Queensland Government will be investing almost \$101.9 million over the five financial year years 2016–17 to 2020–21 in a range of community and research organisations to prevent, test and treat blood borne viruses and sexually transmissible infections.

The total money allocated each financial year is approximately:

- \$22.2 million in 2016–17
- \$23.2 million in 2017–18
- \$24.1 million in 2018–19
- \$17.0 million in 2019–20
- \$15.3 million in 2020–21