

## Question on Notice

No. 458

Asked on 2 May 2018

**MR E SORENSEN** asked the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services (HON DR S MILES)—

### QUESTION

With reference to mental health patients being more susceptible to the factors that can lead to homelessness like poverty, disaffiliation and personal vulnerability—

Will the Minister advise when the government will provide funding to the electorate of Hervey Bay, for considered interventions and holistic care for mental health patients?

### ANSWER

Queensland Health's mental health services support individuals with a severe and persistent mental illness and offer interventions to address issues of vulnerability and social exclusion.

Wide Bay Hospital and Health Service (HHS) Mental Health, Alcohol and Other Drug Services offer general adult mental health services and sub-specialty mental health services in Hervey Bay for children and young people, older people and Indigenous people.

New investment has been allocated under *Connecting Care to Recovery 2016-2021: A plan for Queensland's State-funded mental health, alcohol and other drug services* to operate a new 10 bed mental health step-up step-down facility for Bundaberg with services expected to commence by the end of 2018. This is a short-term, residential treatment service with a recovery focus to support adults to transition from an acute inpatient mental health service back into the community (step down), as well as help avoid admission to an acute inpatient service for someone whose mental health may be deteriorating (step up).

Queensland Health currently provides funding to three non-government organisations in Hervey Bay to provide community and personalised support services to individuals experiencing mental illness and their carers.

Importantly, mental health services delivered by HHSs have linkages with local Housing Service Centres and programs provided by the Department of Housing and Public Works. For example, in Hervey Bay the local mental health service provides support to individuals within programs such as the Youth Housing and Reintegration Services program and homestay emergency housing.