

## Question on Notice

No. 931

Asked on 21 August 2018

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

### QUESTION

With reference to Western Australia and Victoria as leaders in providing funding for research and development of treatment options for Diabetes Type 1 disease—

Will the Minister outline what the Queensland Government is delivering in funding towards research, awareness and better treatment options for those suffering from this life-threatening disease?

### ANSWER

In 2015, there were 21,870 registered cases of Type 1 diabetes (requiring insulin) in Queensland, and 7% of those were children aged 0–15 years (1,608 cases). Each year, there are about 700 new cases of Type 1 diabetes diagnosed in Queensland and about 40% are children. Type 1 diabetes is a lifelong autoimmune condition that requires insulin management and is not currently preventable.

The Palaszczuk Government is committed to reducing the impacts of both Type-1 and Type-2 diabetes and is committed to supporting health research and innovation across the state. The Queensland Advancing Health Research 2026 Strategy is accompanied by a new \$10 million investment in health and medical research by Queensland Health.

This new investment is in addition to significant funding directly provided to Hospital and Health Services (HHSs) for local research activities each year. Queensland Health is involved with around 17 current or recently completed research projects related to Type 1 diabetes.

Queensland Health is also supporting the \$25 million Queensland Genomic Health Alliance.

A key focus of the ongoing genomic work will be the investigation of genetic risk factors for complex diseases such as Type 1 diabetes. This aligns with the significant investment in digital infrastructure across Queensland, which is necessary to provide the detailed clinical information required to interpret the genomic findings.

As an example, the MeCare project is a joint venture between Philips and the West Moreton HHS. Type 1 diabetes is one of the chronic conditions that MeCare is well-suited to address and aims to support the use of in-home health tracking technology by chronic condition patients to help reduce the need for them to attend hospital.

From its trial launch in July 2016, the program is now delivering specialised care to more than 170 people in the West Moreton region, with patient results remotely reviewed and analysed by MeCare clinical staff. Each participant has ready access

to a team of healthcare professionals including nurses, a doctor, social worker, pharmacist and health care coaches who can support patients remotely or via home visits.

Analysis of the first 80 patients showed: a 28 per cent reduction in potentially preventable hospitalisations; a 27 per cent decrease in inpatient care costs; a 60 per cent reduction in emergency department presentations; and a 17 per cent reduction in occupied hospital bed days (which is equivalent to 450 bed days a year).

In addition, Queensland Health has an established Statewide Diabetes Clinical Network (SDCN). The network serves as a vehicle for engaging front-line clinicians and partners to develop and drive clinical quality standards, statewide equity and sustainable improvement in healthcare. The main priorities of the network are improving point of care testing, education and training for clinicians, and consumers.

In relation to awareness, the Palaszczuk Government has committed \$27 million over a four-year period to deliver the *My health for life* Type-2 diabetes and chronic disease prevention program, a major new initiative, being led by Diabetes Queensland, to reduce the burden of chronic disease. This program is provided free of charge, to support Queenslanders identified at high risk of developing Type 2 diabetes to adopt healthy lifestyle behaviours.

To date, over 91,000 Queenslanders have undertaken a *My health for life* health check, and more than 5,800 have enrolled in the program.