

## Question on Notice

No. 899

Asked on 11 June 2019

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

### QUESTION

Will the Minister advise what steps the Palaszczuk Government is taking to support suicide prevention initiatives?

### ANSWER

The Palaszczuk Government is committed to reducing the suicide rate, preventing wherever possible the tragic loss of life. *Our Future State, Advancing Queensland's Priorities* commits to reducing the suicide rate by 50 per cent by 2026.

The Queensland Mental Health Commission is currently coordinating the development of a renewed cross-sector suicide prevention plan for Queensland, which will include a range of government initiatives and investments.

The 2019-20 State Budget demonstrated the Palaszczuk Government's commitment to reducing the rate of suicide in Queensland with an investment of \$61.9 million over four years to Queensland Health to further strengthen Queensland's approach to suicide prevention. The new health funding is a major element of the first phase of implementation of '*Shifting Minds*', the five-year Queensland Mental Health, Alcohol and Other Drugs Strategic Plan 2018-2023.

Initiatives under the Shifting Minds investment include:

- The establishment of Way Back Support Services in priority locations across Queensland to provide community-based follow-up support to people after a suicide attempt
- The establishment of 'Safe Spaces', based on the Safe Haven Café model, to provide a safe and therapeutic alternative to the emergency department for people experiencing psychological distress
- A trial of a community based 24/7 crisis stabilisation facility as an alternative to emergency departments for people experiencing a mental health crisis
- Expansion of community mental health support services delivered by non-government organisations to provide comprehensive, integrated and recovery-oriented care for people with severe and persistent mental illness.

The following Palaszczuk Government investments were also announced in the broader package of State Government Budget initiatives and support suicide prevention:

Department of Education:

- \$10 million over four years from 2019/20 and \$2.5 million per annum ongoing, for additional Guidance Officers and Mental Health Coaches in schools.

Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships:

- \$6.9 million over four years to develop and implement an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth mental health and wellbeing program.

Other ongoing Queensland Government initiatives supporting suicide prevention include:

Office of Industrial Relations:

- Supporting Queensland workplaces to promote good mental health practices, prevent psychosocial harm, and intervene early with employees experiencing mental health challenges and support recovery.

Queensland Rail:

- Supporting improvements in the detection and management of suicide and self-harm incidents on Queensland Rail property.

Additionally, Queensland Health is continuing to roll out the \$9.6 million four-year (2016/17 to 2019/20) Suicide Prevention in Health Services Initiative across Queensland to help health services improve and connect the clinical care provided to people at risk of suicide.

This includes actions to enhance the knowledge and skills of primary mental health care providers, such as Emergency Department staff, first responders, including paramedics and police, GPs and school based nurses, and provides for data collection to inform future actions and improvements in service responses.

The Palaszczuk Government is also investing in evidence based treatment and care through the implementation of the Zero Suicide in Healthcare framework in 11 Hospital and Health Services, including the design of a standardised clinical care pathway for individuals identified with suicide risk.

A lived experience peer support service to enhance continuing care options for people following an acute care crisis is also being trialled.