

Question on Notice

No. 829

Asked on 17 June 2021

MR R MOLHOEK ASKED THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND AMBULANCE SERVICES (HON Y D'ATH) –

QUESTION

Will the Minister advise if there is sufficient capacity for mental health services in Queensland to meet increasing demand, as a result of COVID-19, and what initiatives or programs are in place to ensure that supply of publicly funded mental health services in Queensland continue to meet the demand?

ANSWER

The Queensland Government is committed to ensuring comprehensive services are in place to respond to individuals and their families across Queensland who require mental health treatment and care. Funding for initiatives established under the \$350 million mental health alcohol and other drugs plan – *Connecting Care to Recovery 2016 – 2021: A plan for Queensland's Mental Health, Alcohol and Other Drug Services* will continue.

Queensland Health is developing a new five-year plan to build on the success of Connecting Care to Recovery. It will also align with the new National Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Agreement currently being negotiated with the Commonwealth Government. An extensive needs analysis has been undertaken, along with consultation across Hospital and Health Services and key stakeholders to inform the priorities for investment and reform under a new plan.

Queensland Health continues to roll out suicide prevention crisis responses and enhanced services funded with \$61.9 million over four years under the 2018-19 State Budget.

On 20 August 2020, the Government announced \$46.5 million over two years to support a Mental Health and Wellbeing Community Package, part of Queensland Government's Economic Recovery Strategy.

Queensland Health continues to deliver significant mental health capital projects to complement and enhance treatment and rehabilitation options for people living with severe and complex mental health problems.

Queensland Health is delivering on \$205.8 million in capital projects to establish 89 new mental health beds and upgrade existing beds for inpatient and subacute treatment. This includes new mental health inpatient facilities in Cairns, West Moreton and Hervey Bay and expansion of subacute residential services such as adult and youth Step Up Step Down facilities.