

Question on Notice

No. 1211

Asked on 27 October 2022

MR S KNUTH ASKED THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND AMBULANCE SERVICES (HON Y D'ATH)—

QUESTION

With reference to 'Connecting Care to Recovery 2016-2021: A plan for Queensland's State-funded mental health, alcohol and other drug services' which provides that one in seven Australian children and young people aged 4 to 17 years experienced a mental disorder in 2013-14—

Will the Minister explain the government's plan to increase inpatient beds dedicated to adolescent mental health treatment beyond the single 8-bed unit in Townsville that currently services the entire region north of Mackay?

ANSWER

Delivering person-centered, recovery-oriented, rights-based mental health, alcohol and other drugs treatment for children, adolescents, and young people is a priority for the Palaszczuk government.

This means balancing treatment, care, and support so it is provided in the community as well as in hospitals and ensuring the right mix of services and treatment, care and support, and the the right type of beds at the right time.

The 2022-23 Budget provides an additional \$1.645 billion over five years and a capital investment of \$28.5 million to improve our mental health, alcohol and other drugs services and for a range of initiatives, including more than \$305 million in new investment for children, adolescents, young people and their families across Queensland.

The 5-year investment also includes Queensland's contribution under the bilateral schedule to the Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Agreement with the Commonwealth Government. This agreement will see two Head to Health kids hubs established in Queensland as well as clinical in-reach by Queensland Health into the existing headspace centres within Cairns and Hinterland Hospital and Health Service (CHHHS), Mackay Hospital and Health Service (MHHS) and Townsville Hospital and Health Service (THHS) catchments.

I'm advised the new 5-year investment will support the roll out of child and youth acute response teams across Queensland. These teams provide a dedicated response for children, adolescents and their families presenting in mental health crisis. Furthermore, the investment will see adolescent mental health beds and alcohol and other drug rehabilitation treatment services in CHHHS, enhanced existing assertive

mobile youth outreach services and child and youth forensic mental health services in CHHHS, MHHS and THHS, and adolescent day programs in CHHHS and MHHS.