

Question on Notice

No. 1110

Asked on 13 September 2023

MR J KELLY ASKED MINISTER FOR HEALTH, MENTAL HEALTH AND AMBULANCE SERVICES AND MINISTER FOR WOMEN (HON S FENTIMAN)—

QUESTION

Will the Minister provide an update on the recommendations from Report No.1 of the Inquiry into the opportunities to improve mental health outcomes for Queenslanders?

ANSWER

In January of this year, we introduced a new Mental Health Levy through an amendment to the *Payroll Tax Act 1971*.

Through this levy we have been able to invest an additional \$1.645 billion to support a multi-agency approach and a range of strategies to strengthen the reform agenda towards a more integrated and contemporary mental health and alcohol and other drug system.

Better Care Together: a plan for Queensland's state-funded mental health alcohol and other drug services to 2027 sets out key actions across six priority areas to develop a more comprehensive, coordinated, and person-centered system as aligned with the Mental Health Select Committee's recommendations:

- Strengthening service capacity and the build environment
- Responding to mental health crisis and suicidality
- Delivering improved services with First Nations peoples
- Strengthening quality to reduce harm and improve outcomes
- Improving workforce capability and sustainability
- Delivering digital capability and digitally enabled treatment, care and support.

In 2023-24, an additional \$301.4 million will continue delivering mental health, alcohol and other drug services which includes:

- \$47.9 million – Boost to community alcohol and other drugs treatment services and specialist alcohol and other drugs responses in Emergency Departments and hospital settings, and the capacity of the statewide telephone and online service Adis, providing 24/7 drug and alcohol support.
- \$47 million – children adolescents and young people including new and existing Acute Response Teams for children and adolescents experiencing mental health crisis or at risk of suicide.
- \$15.9 million for six new crisis support spaces and enhancing existing crisis support spaces for people in mental health crisis and at risk of suicide.

- \$11.4 million – improved mental health services for First Nations people. Includes establishing a child and youth mental health team and boosting the First Nations adult mental health team at Inala.
- \$6.3 million - two new eating disorder services (Metro South and Darling Downs/West Moreton) and enhance existing eating disorder services (Townsville, Cairns, Sunshine Coast and Gold Coast).
- \$4 million - two new in The Home services at Gold Coast and West Moreton.
- \$2.4 million - additional perinatal and infant mental health nurses in Darling Downs, Torres and Cape, Townsville, West Moreton, Central Queensland, Mackay, Metro South and Wide Bay.

Transparency around the levy spending is needed, appropriate, and in line with community expectations.

The *Better Care Together Assurance Committee* and the *Better Care Together Reference Committee* meet on a regular basis to assure expenditure and monitor and support implementation respectively.

Equally important is how we communicate these new and expanded mental health, alcohol, and drug initiatives to the community, so they know what services are available to meet their needs.

The full list of initiatives and highlights, access the Annual Progress update here: <https://www.health.qld.gov.au/better-care-together>.