

Question on Notice

No. 242

Asked on 19 March 2024

MS D FRECKLINGTON ASKED MINISTER FOR HEALTH, MENTAL HEALTH AND AMBULANCE SERVICES AND MINISTER FOR WOMEN (HON S FENTIMAN)—

QUESTION

With reference to Queensland Health's Child and Youth Acute Response Teams to help young people experiencing a mental health crisis or at risk of suicide—
Will the Minister advise if a team will be based in the South Burnett?

ANSWER

In February 2024, the Miles Government announced \$67.8 million for Child and Youth Acute Response Teams to provide rapid response, assessment, brief interventions, and community follow-up to young people aged to 18 years who are experiencing mental health crisis, including suicidality, and their families.

This new funding is part of \$305 million investment into child and youth mental health and alcohol and other drug services as part of the Government's \$1.65 billion Better Care Together, the five-year plan to bolster state-funded mental health, alcohol and other drug services.

New child and youth acute response teams have been established in the Darling Downs, Metro North, and Townsville Hospital and Health Services (HHS), as well as enhanced and expanded teams in Cairns and Hinterland, Central Queensland, Mackay, Metro South, Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast, West Moreton, Wide Bay, and Children's Health Queensland HHSs. These new teams enhance the service response provided by existing community child and youth mental health services, available in 55 locations across Queensland.

Children and young people presenting in acute mental health crisis in the South Burnett region can access the Child and Youth Acute Response Team operating from the Toowoomba Base Hospital. In addition, the Kingaroy child and youth mental health service provides assessment and treatment for children and young people in the South Burnett experiencing mental health issues, including assessment for those presenting in crisis including suicidality. This service is provided during business hours. The Acute Response Team operates an extended hours service from 8.00-10.00pm. Outside of these times the Acute Care Team provides a 24-hour, 7 day a week service response for all ages across the Darling Downs HHS region including the South Burnett.