

Question on Notice

No. 58

Asked on 11 February 2026

MS SANDY BOLTON ASKED MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND AMBULANCE SERVICES (HON T NICHOLLS)—

QUESTION

With reference to eating disorders having the highest mortality rate of any mental illness affecting more than 200,000 Queenslanders—

Will the Minister (a) increase funding for residential eating disorder centres and intensive at-home programs in line with the new world-first programs in Victoria, (b) advise what changes will be made to current policies to address the challenges being experienced by affected Queenslanders and their families, including to the criteria for hospitalisation, (c) given the shortage of public mental health beds, advise whether consideration is being given to utilise private hospital beds in the interim and (d) outline what is being initiated by government to address the shortage of therapeutic support and extensive waiting times to access that support?

ANSWER

The Crisafulli Government is delivering easier access to health services for Queenslanders experiencing eating disorders.

This includes \$1.9 million for EndED to deliver eight ‘tiny homes’ for short-term accommodation to support intensive treatment for eating disorders as well as mental health support, anticipated to be completed by June 2026.

Queensland Health has invested more than \$50 million over five years to 2026-27 from the Mental Health Levy to expand access to evidence-based services and enhance treatment options for Queenslanders experiencing eating disorders.

Some of Queensland’s state-funded eating disorder programs include:

- The Queensland Eating Disorders Service commenced the Restore program for individuals aged 17 years and over late last year. Restore is an intensive, community-based treatment model designed to provide twice-weekly support and reduce the need for bed-based care by intervening earlier and more effectively in the community.
- Queensland Health funds the Specialist Day Program operated through Children’s Health Queensland, which expands access to treatment for more children and young people aged 0-18 and seeks to reduce prolonged reliance on hospital-based care.

- Queensland Health actively reviews and updates hospitalisation criteria and clinical pathways to ensure they continue to reflect evidence and contemporary practice.
- Individuals requiring specialist inpatient care can access dedicated specialist eating disorder beds located at the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital, or at a number of authorised public mental health units across Queensland.
- Public beds are also funded at Wandi Nerida, Australia's first residential treatment service for eating disorders located on the Sunshine Coast.
- Statewide service capacity has been expanded through establishing new Eating Disorders Specialist Services in Metro South, Darling Downs, and West Moreton Hospital and Health Services. Enhanced service capability has also been delivered in Metro North, Sunshine Coast, Gold Coast, Townsville, and Cairns and Hinterland Hospital and Health Services.
- The Queensland Government has strengthened community-based and peer-led support options through dedicated investment in expanded services for Eating Disorders Queensland, Eating Disorders Families Australia, and EndED.