



# RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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**FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT**

**Tuesday, 30 November 2021**

have their first vaccination dose by 17 December and be double dosed by 23 January, prior to the commencement of the 2022 school year. This will include Department of Education staff who go into schools and early childhood centres as part of their work. It will include those going onsite to provide cleaning, repairs and maintenance. This will apply to all sectors, government and non-government. It brings us into line with the mandates in every other mainland state and territory.

This afternoon with my department I will be briefing key stakeholders on the announcement, including professional associations, unions and representatives from the independent, Catholic and early childhood sectors. This action will ensure we keep our children and our education workforce safe and keep our schools and early education centres open. This action will help keep all Queenslanders safe.

### **Mental Health Services, Parliamentary Inquiry**


 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (9.53 am): When it comes to demand for mental health services, we know that 70 per cent of GP presentations in 2021 are mental health related, up from 61 per cent in 2017. We also know that 10 per cent of the population received MBS supported mental health care in 2019-20, almost twice the rate from the past 10 years. An estimated 2.2 per cent of the Queensland population has received specialist clinical mental health care from Queensland Health services in 2020-21. The Palaszczuk government invests approximately \$1.8 billion annually in mental health. This includes: \$350 million for the *Connecting care to recovery 2016-2021* mental health, alcohol and other drugs plan; \$205.8 million in capital projects to establish 89 new mental health beds and upgrade existing inpatient and subacute treatment beds; \$61.9 million for the continued rollout of suicide prevention crisis responses and enhanced services; and an expansion of the Queensland Ambulance Service's Mental Health Co-Responder Program.

In addition, we know that COVID has further exacerbated demands on our mental health services in Queensland. That is why we invested \$74.5 million in the Mental Health and Wellbeing package, which includes: \$46.5 million to support Queensland mental health responses; and \$30 million for non-government providers to prepare and respond to the pandemic. The Palaszczuk government is in the process of finalising a new five-year plan for Queensland, informed by extensive stakeholder consultation and a needs analysis. We are also currently negotiating with the Commonwealth to finalise a new national mental health and suicide prevention agreement and five-year bilateral arrangements for state and Commonwealth government investment in mental health.

Primary health wait times and out-of-pocket expenses have also exploded under the Morrison government. Out-of-pocket specialist costs have increased by nearly 51 per cent across Queensland since 2012-13, and out-of-pocket GP costs have increased by 33 per cent across Queensland since 2012-13. The Australian Association of Psychologists report that the Medicare rebate for psychology visits has increased by only \$2.65 since 2006. The Australian Association of Psychologists also have reported that raising the Medicare rebate will enable more psychologists to bulk-bill, enabling more clients to stay in treatment so their condition is adequately treated and allowing greater retention of psychologists in the profession.

The Palaszczuk government knows that we need to shine a light on mental health and better understand the needs and demand pressures arising from COVID but also more generally across the mental health system in Queensland. That is why the Palaszczuk government will be establishing a parliamentary inquiry into mental health services in Queensland. We are confident that our parliament can play an important role in shaping the future of our mental health services in Queensland.

### **Coronavirus, Vaccination**

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (9.57 am): Queensland's police officers and emergency services personnel have been on the front line of community safety throughout the pandemic. They have been on the borders, in the airports and in hotel quarantine helping to keep the virus out to keep the community safe and protect our economy. They have also led by example when it comes to vaccination.

Over 99 per cent of police officers are vaccinated, and now they are going to the next step. Police officers who vaccinated early are now getting their third or booster shot; in fact, just last week when I was in Mount Isa Deputy Commissioner Paul Taylor—whom you know very well, Mr Speaker—who has responsibility for police in all regional areas across Queensland, received his booster shot. It was a great example to the people of Mount Isa but also to other police officers and the broader Queensland community about our commitment to community safety.