



Hon Yvette D'Ath MP
Minister for Health and Ambulance Services
Leader of the House

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Mr Neil Laurie
Clerk of the Parliament
Queensland Parliament
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie ^{Neil}

I write in response to your letter regarding petition number 3630-21, tabled in Parliament on 30 November 2021, in relation to COVID-19 and mental health.

The COVID-19 pandemic has, and will continue to have, impacts on the mental health and wellbeing of all Queenslanders. The impact of the pandemic is different to more localised crises or disaster events because the combination of physical, social and economic challenges has population-wide implications for mental health and wellbeing.

The Queensland Government is committed to ensuring comprehensive services are in place to respond to individuals and their families who require mental health, alcohol and other drugs treatment and care.

The Queensland Government committed \$350 million over five years to implement the priorities of *Connecting Care to Recovery 2016-2021: A plan for Queensland's State-funded mental health, alcohol and other drug services*.

On 20 August 2020, the Premier announced \$46.5 million over two years for localised mental health community treatment and support services as part of the Queensland Government's Economic Recovery Strategy. The package comprises six targeted evidence-based initiatives designed to mitigate the immediate and longer-term mental health impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, including additional community mental health and drug and alcohol treatment and support responses, specialist mental health services for people in quarantine, additional capacity within existing alcohol and other drugs residential rehabilitation services, localised mental health initiatives and youth mental health.

Queensland Health is developing a new five-year plan for mental health alcohol and other drug state funded services which will provide additional resources and infrastructure to continue to enhance community-based beds, treatment and support services as well as new crisis response and suicide prevention initiatives.

On 2 December 2021, the Queensland Government established a Mental Health Select Committee to undertake an inquiry and report on the opportunities to improve mental health outcomes for Queenslanders. The committee is due to report to the Legislative Assembly by 31 May 2021.

I trust this information is of assistance to the petitioners.

Yours sincerely



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