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Queenslanders to be among the healthiest people in the world by 2026 with the announcement of a \$350 million mental health plan.

The Palaszczuk Government has today unveiled a new \$350 million plan to further strengthen its commitment to supporting Queenslanders living with mental health, alcohol and drug issues.

Minister for Health and Ambulance Services the Hon Cameron Dick MP today celebrated Queensland Mental Health Week by announcing *Connecting Care to Recovery*, a five-year plan to guide the government's investment in mental health and alcohol and other drug services.

"This new plan – funded by an additional \$350 million over five years – aims to significantly increase funding to mental health after three years of LNP cuts drove Queensland's staffing and spending on mental health to the lowest in Australia," said Minister Dick.

"The plan focuses on providing access to mental health, and alcohol and other drug services across the continuum and in a variety of settings.

"It will also expand the capacity and range of specialised, contemporary service options available to deliver responsive and individualised care."

The plan includes initiatives such as:

- Investing more than \$87 million of new funding into services for children and young people, including \$5.2 million to expand the Ed-LinQ program over five years to support more schools to better help students experiencing mental health issues.
- Growing investment in new areas of need, including mental health services helping indigenous Queenslanders, the LGBTIQ community and new mothers.
- Investing \$43 million over five years towards alcohol and drug services provided by non-Government agencies.

"As a government, we are dedicated to fulfilling our goal of Queenslanders being among the healthiest people in the world by 2026, and mental health is a crucial determinant of an individual's health and wellbeing," said Minister Dick.

Kris Trott, CEO of the Queensland Alliance for Mental Health, commends Minister Dick for his commitment to working collaboratively across the service system and investing in mental health services, particularly those for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, mothers and infants, transcultural populations, forensic referrals, people with eating disorders and rural and remote populations.

"The commitment to increase and improve in-reach to individuals admitted to bed-based services and a range of specialist alcohol and other drug treatments including assessment, psychosocial interventions and care coordination delivered in the community through Hospital and Health Services' and non-government organisations, is an important step in providing adequate health services for Queenslanders," Ms Trott said.

"This funding announcement comes at the beginning of National Mental Health Week, which aims to promote social and emotional well-being, encourage people to maximise their health potential, and maintain good mental health. A move to a more person-centred and recovery-oriented service delivery is a worthy investment."

For more information about the plan visit <http://www.qldalliance.org.au>.

If you or someone you know needs support you can phone 13 HEALTH, the Alcohol and Drug Information Service on 1800 177 833 or Lifeline on 13 11 14.

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