

# Media Release

Tuesday, 14 June 2016

## Joint Statement

### **\$12 million Budget boost for regional mental health facilities**

Three new community-managed mental health facilities will be built in Mackay, Bundaberg and Gladstone under a \$12 million investment from the Palaszczuk Government, unlocking up to 35 construction jobs.

Funding for the new 'Step Up Step Down' facilities has been delivered through the \$180 million Significant Regional Infrastructure Projects Program as part of the Government's landmark State Infrastructure Plan.

Deputy Premier and Minister for Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning Jackie Trad said each location would receive \$4 million for a 10-bed facility to provide an alternative to hospital for people recovering from mental illness.

"Some patients are either admitted to our hospitals or remain in our hospitals when they could be better supported in less restrictive environments within the community, closer to their support networks," she said.

"A Step Up Step Down facility will provide these regional communities with a safe, therapeutic environment into which patients can step down after a stay in hospital, or step up if they feel their health is deteriorating."

Minister for Health and Ambulance Services Cameron Dick said the Step Up Step Down facilities would provide an alternative model of care by offering intensive, short-term residential programs in a home-like space to help mental illness sufferers in their recovery.

"These facilities mark a major win for adults suffering or recovering from mental health issues in these communities and demonstrate our government's commitment to delivering important services that better the lives of Queenslanders wherever they live," he said.

The Step Up Step Down model is based on a partnership between the non-government organisation (NGO) sector and public mental health services, and is proven to improve patient outcomes and lead to more efficient use of available inpatient and community services.

Step Up Step Down provides services to people who are becoming unwell and people who are in the early stages of recovery from an acute illness and need a short period of additional support and consolidation.

The facilities are expected to open in late 2017 and will be staffed by a mix of clinical and non-clinical staff 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Ms Trad said the project was not only a welcome boost to the health of regional communities, but would also support local workforces with up to 35 construction jobs expected to be supported.

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“Through the SRIPP, our government is bringing forward key economic and social infrastructure projects in regional centres right across Queensland, which will unlock jobs and improve liveability,” she said.

“We know investment in infrastructure is essential for healthy regional economies, and our government will ensure local residents are employed through these projects wherever possible.”

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