

7 October 2020

The Honourable Anastacia Palaszczuk MP
Premier and Minister for the Arts
PO Box 15185
City East QLD 4002

Via email: thepremier@premiers.qld.gov.au



Dear Ms Palaszczuk

I am writing to you on behalf of the members of the Queensland Alliance for Mental Health (QAMH). QAMH is the peak body for the community mental health and wellbeing sector in Queensland, and the organisations we support have been pivotal in the delivery of mental health and wellbeing services during the COVID-19 pandemic.

I take this opportunity in the lead up to the upcoming election in Queensland, to highlight some key areas for reform and investment. I am eager to discuss your proposed approach to supporting the mental wellbeing of Queenslanders, and specifically those with existing vulnerabilities as well as those most impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

We have all witnessed some concerning trends including unprecedented levels of unemployment and housing insecurity, increased rates of domestic and family violence, and disruption to education at all levels. Additionally, the severe restrictions on travel and social engagement with family and friends has resulted in social isolation for many. Without appropriate investment and strategies, many Queenslanders will experience high levels of distress, anxiety, depression and will struggle to recover in the long term.

The community mental health and wellbeing sector has responded to the challenges posed by COVID-19 and will be a crucial contributor to the recovery response required to ensure the wellbeing of Queenslanders.

I am proposing four key priority areas of focus for your consideration. I believe these will be crucial for the mental health and wellbeing of Queenslanders to help them remain hopeful and resilient, whilst actively contributing to the Queensland economy.

- Invest in community-based mental wellbeing responses to not only address the increase in distress in the population and the long-term impacts of the pandemic, but to reduce the pressure on hospital-based services. This should include targeted responses for vulnerable populations such as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander populations, culturally and linguistically diverse communities and people with disabilities.
- Invest in contemporary 24 -hour community-based alternatives to emergency departments and inpatient units, for those presenting in mental distress.

“Strong, inclusive and resilient mental health communities.”

07 3252 9411 
admin@qamh.org.au 
433 Logan Road 
Stones Corner QLD 4120 
www.qamh.org.au 

Queensland Alliance for Mental Health Ltd

- Support a range of initiatives to develop and maintain a skilled community mental health and wellbeing workforce, to respond to the increasing mental health needs of Queenslanders.
- Use the momentum of COVID-19 and the raised community awareness, to create mental health promotion initiatives within community settings and networks that already exist such as workplace, school and community groups.

I would welcome the opportunity to discuss your proposed policy priorities for the mental health and wellbeing of Queensland. At the same time we would be happy to share our ideas in further detail and outline some of the strategies and initiatives that would need to be funded and considered to ensure we sufficiently meet the challenges before us.

I will have my assistant follow up with a meeting request or you may contact my office on 07 3394 8480 to arrange a suitable time to meet.

Thank you and I look forward to speaking with you.

Yours sincerely



Jennifer Black
Chief Executive Officer

