



Hon Steven Miles MP
Minister for Health and
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26 SEP 2018

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

Dear Mr Laurie

I write in response to your letter regarding petition numbers 2925-18 and 3001-18, tabled in Parliament on 4 September 2018, in relation to Bamboo Projects. As these petitions are similar in nature, I have taken the liberty of responding to both petitions in this letter. I therefore ask that this response be noted against each petition.

Suicide has a devastating impact on families, friends, workplaces and communities across Queensland. While the causes of suicide are complex, the promotion of good mental health and the prevention of mental illness can contribute to reducing the risk factors for suicide. The Queensland Government is committed to preventing suicide and addressing the effects of mental illness in our community, supported through a combined effort by Queensland Health and the Queensland Mental Health Commission (the Commission).

The Queensland Government has invested an additional \$350 million in mental health over five years through Connecting Care to Recovery 2016-2021: A plan for Queensland's State-funded mental health alcohol and other drugs services. This funding includes \$9.6 million over four years (2106-2017 to 2019-2020) to the Queensland Suicide Prevention in Health Services Initiative with the aim of contributing to a measurable reduction in suicide and its impact on Queenslanders.

Queensland Health provides services to individuals with the most severe (both persistent and episodic) mental illness. Medication and evidence based psychological therapies delivered by Queensland Health mental health services are proven to provide good results for many people affected by mental illness. However, Queensland Health recognises that mental health recovery not only involves medication and psychological therapy, but also having a safe place to live, satisfying and meaningful community connections and relationships, and a sense of accomplishment and control over one's life.

As such, Queensland Health funds mental health community support services (MHCSS) delivered by non-government organisations to individuals to meet their needs. A total of \$36.64 million has been allocated to MHCSS in 2018-2019. MHCSS provide holistic wraparound psychosocial support according to the individual's recovery needs. Annually, the mental health community support sector provides psychosocial support services to more than 48,000 individuals in the community, through more than 64,000 episodes of support.

Service Agreements in place for MHCSS expire on 30 June 2019 and it is Queensland Health's intention to pursue an open tender process from September 2018 to procure MHCSS to commence from 1 July 2019. This process will be conducted in accordance with the Queensland Procurement Policy 2018. Interested service providers are encouraged to register with the QTenders website: <https://www.hpw.qld.gov.au/qtenders/> to keep track of funding opportunities.

The Commission supports services and initiatives that promote community-wide mental health and wellbeing, awareness, prevention and early intervention and reduce stigma and discrimination. Since 2014, the Commission has invested more than \$3.1 million in 90 initiatives across Queensland through the Stronger Community Mental Health and Wellbeing Grants Program.

Through the grants program, the Commission provided small, non-recurrent grants of up to \$50,000 to community organisations to deliver innovative, locally-led, collaborative initiatives primarily related to promoting mental health and wellbeing, social inclusion, and reducing stigma and discrimination associated with mental illness, problematic alcohol and other drug use and suicide.

The Commission is currently reviewing the grants program to ensure it aligns with and supports the strategic intents of the renewed Queensland Mental Health, Alcohol and Other Drugs Strategic Plan. Further details of the new grants program will be announced later in 2018.

Bamboo Projects could also consider the Queensland Government's funding, grants and resources website. This website includes local, state and federal government grant opportunities, as well as other grant opportunities. See <https://www.qld.gov.au/community/community-organisations-volunteering/funding-grants-resources> for further details.

With regard to disability supports, Queensland is transitioning to the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) which will be fully implemented in Queensland in 2019. The NDIS will look significantly different from the current disability service system and will not involve government funding disability services directly. In addition, the NDIS will provide supports directly to individuals and may include capital funding to support the individual to live in the community. The NDIS will empower people with a disability to make choices for themselves regarding what supports are right for them. Organisations that wish to provide disability support services to people with a disability are encouraged to become an NDIS provider. Details are available at: <https://www.ndis.gov.au/providers/qld-registering-provider>.

The Queensland Government also encourages Bamboo Projects to investigate potential funding sources from philanthropic organisations or businesses.

I trust this information is of assistance to the petitioners.

Yours sincerely



STEVEN MILES MP

Minister for Health

Minister for Ambulance Services