1. The Mental Health Amendment Bill 2016 (the Bill) amends the *Mental Health Act 2016* (the Mental Health Act) and the *Public Health Act 2005* (the Public Health Act) to support implementation of the Mental Health Act.
2. The Bill amends the Mental Health Act to clarify that oral or written statements made by a person:
* during an assessment regarding unsoundness of mind or fitness for trial are not admissible in evidence against the person in any criminal or civil proceeding; and
* during an examination conducted pursuant to a court’s examination order are not admissible in evidence against the person’s interests in relation to findings of guilt.
1. The Bill also makes clarifying and technical amendments to the Mental Health Act and the Public Health Actto ensure provisions operate as intended when the Mental Health Act commences.
2. Together with the Mental Health Act, the Bill further supports a new mental health plan that will improve services for Queenslanders living with mental health, alcohol and drug issues.
3. In particular, the amendments to the Mental Health Actunderpin the *Connecting Care to Recovery 2016-2021* plan, which focuses on recovery-oriented services to provide treatment to individuals who have a mental illness who come before the Magistrates Court.
4. The framework that provides for the redirection of people with a mental health illness or condition from the legal system and toward receiving appropriate mental health care has been in place for several decades with bipartisan support.
5. Cabinet approved the introduction of the Mental Health Amendment Bill 2016 into the Legislative Assembly.
6. *Attachments*
* [Mental Health Amendment Bill 2016](Attachments/Bill.PDF)
* [Explanatory Notes](Attachments/ExNotes.PDF)