

**MEDIA RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**28 February 2011**

**QUEENSLAND ALLIANCE FOR MENTAL HEALTH WELCOMES  
STATE GOVERNMENT CABINET CHANGES**

Jeff Cheverton, CEO of Queensland Alliance for Mental Health, welcomes Geoff Wilson and Curtis Pitt to the portfolios of Health and Mental Health respectively.

He says, Queensland was the last state in Australia without a Mental Health Minister.

“This is a significant step in the right direction for community mental health in Queensland,” he said.

“We are really sad to see Paul Lucas leave the health ministry - he was a very big supporter of mental health and he funded Australia's first anti-stigma campaign,” he said.

He says, Queensland Alliance for Mental Health has also worked closely with Annastacia Palaszczuk for just under two years and greatly appreciated her contribution.

“Minister Palaszczuk brought the spotlight to an area that has too long been ignored. We will greatly miss her support and enthusiasm for getting the community talking about mental health.”

“We are pleased to have met with Geoff Wilson last week.”

He says it is clear from these discussions that Minister Wilson is keen to engage in dialogue about how to improve the mental health system.

“Minister Wilson brings great experience from Education and I’m sure he will ensure the Queensland Government’s new focus on mental health will remain a high priority.”

“We also know that as a new Minister Curtis Pitt will have energy and enthusiasm to lift the profile of community mental health,” he said.

**Media Enquires:**  
**Louise Stokes 07 3252 9411 or 0420 978 835**  
[lstokes@qldalliance.org.au](mailto:lstokes@qldalliance.org.au)