



# Premier of Queensland

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## MESSAGE FROM THE PREMIER OF QUEENSLAND

I am delighted to wish everyone a warm welcome to the inaugural *EndoActive National Endometriosis Conference: Shared Perspectives* in Sydney.

As someone who knows firsthand what it is like to live with the challenges of Endometriosis, I appreciate the opportunity to lend my support to this greatly anticipated event.

Endometriosis is a leading cause of pain and infertility for over half a million girls and women in Australia. The economic cost is estimated at \$6 billion per annum, while the physical, psychological and emotional toll for women and girls with Endo is immeasurable.

Yet, because of the stigma and ignorance that still surrounds what are considered 'women's issues', relatively little is heard of the disease and its impact on everything from employment and education, to relationships, fertility, and daily tasks and life.

I went public with my experience of Endometriosis and IVF because clearly there is a need to share our stories and help move the disease out of the shadows and into the public domain. Sharing our stories can empower and inspire others to come forward, and has always played an important part in women supporting each other.

The greater the community awareness and understanding, the greater the chances also of attracting much-needed research funds.

Like you, I look forward to a time where no girl or woman who has Endometriosis need suffer alone in silence, and no longer spend an average of eight years going from doctor to doctor in a frustrating and expensive search for answers.

Congratulations to the conference organisers EndoActive, and to organisations such as QENDO here in Queensland for all that you are doing to raise the profile of the disease, and for advocating for women and girls to be listened to and believed.

I commend University of Sydney Medical School for supporting this historic conference, and the researchers and health practitioners who have taken time out from busy work schedules to share their perspectives on Endometriosis.

I wish you all the best for a very productive and successful conference.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized initial 'A' followed by a long horizontal line.

**ANNASTACIA PALASZCZUK MP  
PREMIER OF QUEENSLAND  
MINISTER FOR THE ARTS**