



# Submission to Economics and Governance Committee

*Queensland Future Fund Bill 2020*

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submission

## Introduction

The Queensland Nurses and Midwives' Union (QNMU) thanks the Economics and Governance Committee (the Committee) for the opportunity to make a submission to the *Queensland Future Fund Bill 2020* (the bill).

Nursing and midwifery is the largest occupational group in Queensland Health (QH) and one of the largest across the Queensland government. The QNMU is the principal health union in Queensland covering all classifications of workers that make up the nursing and midwifery workforce including registered nurses (RN), midwives (RM), nurse practitioners (NP) enrolled nurses (EN) and assistants in nursing (AIN) who are employed in the public, private and not-for-profit health sectors including aged care.

Our more than 63,000 members work across a variety of settings from single person operations to large health and non-health institutions, and in a full range of classifications from entry level trainees to senior management. The vast majority of nurses in Queensland are members of the QNMU.

This year, 2020 will be dedicated to celebrating the *International year of the Nurse and the Midwife*, in celebration of the 200th year anniversary of the birth of the founder of contemporary nursing, Florence Nightingale. The World Health Organisation (WHO) nominated nurses and midwives for their invaluable contribution to health care and to highlight the need for a strengthened nursing and midwifery workforce to achieve sustainable development goals (SDG) and universal health coverage. The QNMU is proud to embrace this opportunity to invest in the nursing and midwifery professions, particularly the investment into minimum safe staffing ratios and skill mix across all health sectors.

## General comment

The QNMU supports the passing of the *Queensland Future Fund Bill 2020* to establish a Queensland Future Fund. We believe this will fulfil a similar function to the Commonwealth's *Future Fund Act 2006*.

The bill will provide an additional guarantee of the State's future defined benefit liabilities. This provides ongoing certainty for Queensland and strengthens the Queensland Government's long-term financial position.