



Speech by


Hon. Campbell Newman

MEMBER FOR ASHGROVE

Hansard Wednesday, 1 August 2012

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Queensland Health, Salaried Doctors

 **Hon. CKT NEWMAN** (Ashgrove—LNP) (Premier) (2.08 pm): I am also pleased to inform the House that the Queensland government and the unions representing salaried doctors have today agreed a proposed new certified agreement. Under the agreement to be presented for ballot, doctors working for Queensland Health will receive a pay rise of 2.5 per cent a year over the next three years. In addition, the certified agreement will be significantly simplified.

The proposed agreement covers approximately 5,287 junior and senior salaried medical officers working in Queensland Health facilities across the state. I would like to thank the two unions representing doctors—Together Queensland and the Australian Salaried Medical Officers Federation Queensland—for negotiating in good faith with the government and coming to this agreement.

A government member interjected.

Mr NEWMAN: With headline inflation running at 1.2 per cent nationally—and I take that interjection—this agreement is very fair and very reasonable. This is a great result for the Queensland government and Queensland Health's 5,287 salaried doctors and their patients.

With this agreement reached today we now hope to achieve a similar reasonable outcome with the Queensland Teachers Union, whose members have been offered a 2.7 per cent a year pay increase. In exchange, teachers are being offered job certainty in a very challenging financial environment. We need the assistance of unions and public servants to identify waste and deliver real productivity savings.

The sad fact is that the former Labor government left Queensland's finances in a mess, with a \$2.8 billion deficit last financial year and debt heading towards the critical figure of \$100 billion. Labor failed to manage the Public Service, with expenses growing faster than the ability of government to fund it. That is not sustainable, and it needs to be recognised that wage rises of 2.2 per cent to 2.7 per cent are generous at a time when inflation is currently running at 1.2 per cent. My government is committed to delivering fair wages in return for fair outcomes. We believe it is possible to properly reward staff while also delivering better services and value for money for Queensland taxpayers. Today's agreement is evidence of that commitment and of our determination to get the state back on track.