



Speech By  
**Hon. Tim Nicholls**


**MEMBER FOR CLAYFIELD**

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Record of Proceedings, 28 August 2014

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

### Newman Government, Health and Education Services

 **Hon. TJ NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade) (9.42 am): It is indeed incumbent on all of us to make sure that we are delivering better health and education services, and that is what this government is all about. We came to government with a commitment to deliver better front-line services and we are all about delivering those services.

**Mr Newman** interjected.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** The taxpayers of Queensland are funding it and they deserve to get the best value for the funding that they provide. We have heard all this week how our focus on revitalising front-line services is delivering for Queenslanders in the areas of health and education. Our school results are improving and our hospitals are functioning better. Less money is being swallowed up by the bureaucracy and more money is being provided to programs that are delivering real results. But this government is not just focused on the here and now. Everything this government does is about ensuring this state's growing population enjoys a brighter and more prosperous future. That is why we are absolutely committed to repairing the state's finances and outlining a plan to pay down Labor's \$80 billion worth of debt. We may not have created the problem, but we know it is imperative that we must act. We know that a do-nothing approach will simply lead to more debt and more deficits in the long term, and that has been demonstrated by Queensland Treasury modelling.

We also know that in the next 20 years we will have an extra 600,000 people over the age of 65 and we will have to educate an extra 400,000 students. This growth is going to place huge demands on both our health and education systems, and the government has to start planning now to ensure that we have the infrastructure in place to deal with this growth. This LNP government has a plan. It is a positive plan that will reduce the state's stock of debt by \$25 billion. It will inject resilience back into our budget in case of a disaster. It is a plan that will reduce our interest payments by \$1.3 billion annually and it is a plan that provides an \$8.6 billion Strong Choices Investment Program divided into a range of funds to build the infrastructure that a growing state like Queensland needs. As part of this program, there is a \$1 billion Future Schools Fund. The Schools Planning Commission has delivered a report to government detailing the need for up to 48 new schools between now and 2021. This fund would enable a program for new schools and a program to deliver new classrooms at existing schools. There is also a \$300 million Community Hospital Fund. This government knows that hospitals across Queensland but particularly in regional Queensland need upgrading and redevelopment to cater for our increasing population and growing demand for health services. This fund puts aside money for the future health and hospital needs of Queensland.

Again, I stress that none of our proposals will be implemented until we have taken our careful and methodical plan to the people of Queensland at the next election. But what is important is that Queenslanders know we have funding certainty. They know how this government is going to fund the

schools and hospitals of the future. They know where this money is coming from and that we are not going to have to put further strain on the budget or on taxes to deliver this infrastructure. Contrast that with the lack of a plan, the lack of vision, from those opposite. They have no plan to pay down the debt they accumulated and they have no way to fund the schools and hospitals of the future. Only the LNP has a strong plan for a brighter future for Queenslanders.