




Speech By
Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk

MEMBER FOR INALA

Record of Proceedings, 1 December 2015

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Nurse-to-Patient Ratio Legislation

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.51 am): Through my government's Nursing Guarantee, we have committed to legislate for safe nurse-to-patient ratios and workload provisions to ensure patient safety and quality health care. We are getting on with the job of rebuilding the nursing workforce through both the Refresh Nursing and Nursing Guarantee policy initiatives. Extensive research across more than 32 countries over the past 20 years has shown the positive effect of nursing numbers on patient, clinical and economic outcomes. My government approved a proposal for phased implementation of nurse-to-patient and midwife-to-patient ratios in acute wards of public health sector facilities, with ratios of one to four, one to four and one to seven for morning, afternoon and night shifts respectively.

I am pleased to confirm the Hospital and Health Boards (Safe Nurse-to-Patient and Midwife-to-Patient Ratios) Amendment Bill 2015 will be introduced into the parliament today by the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services. It will deliver on my government's commitment to legislate for mandated ratios and workload provisions to ensure patient safety and quality health care in this state. It will ensure both patient safety and improved safety and work conditions for the tireless staff who work in our hospitals.

The primary objective of the bill is to ensure appropriate staffing levels in order to improve patient outcomes and reduce hospital costs from fewer re-admissions. The ratios scheme will be implemented in hospital and health services through a phased implementation model from 1 July 2016. My government is delivering on its election commitments to ensure our health system is the best and safest in the country. My government is committed to ensuring the best outcomes for both patients and hospital staff.