




Speech By
Hon. Cameron Dick

MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE

Record of Proceedings, 27 March 2015

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Nursing Guarantee

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (9.49 am): Since my appointment as the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services, I have had the very great pleasure of visiting some of Queensland's world-class public hospitals and meeting many of the dedicated staff who do great work day in, day out—from nurses to doctors, cleaners, physios and patient liaison officers. I have met many of them to express my support for the great work they do for Queensland.

All of the Queensland Health hospital staff who I have met have shown great commitment and dedication to serving Queensland. They tell me how they love their jobs and how they would not want to do anything else. But I have also heard about how the LNP sacked 1,800 nurses and midwives across the state and how they made the jobs of those who were left behind so much harder. Nurses tell me their workload is increasing and they are feeling the pressure. Nurses have told me that if things do not improve staff and patient safety will be at risk. That is why I am pleased to share with the House today Labor's commitment to patient safety and quality through our nursing guarantee. Labor will invest in an extra 400 nurses over the next three years. Staff in my department are already planning this investment across the state. Labor will also develop legislation to ensure nurse-patient ratios meet the levels recommended by the experts. Hospital and health services will be expected to report on how they achieve the ratios so that Queenslanders can have renewed confidence in their healthcare system.

Labor is investing in training the next generation of nurses, addressing a significant workforce issue which the opposition ignored. We will do this by creating 1,000 new places for nursing graduates each year over the next four years. Instead of sacking nurses, the Palaszczuk government is committed to rebuilding those front-line services taken away by the LNP. It is only Labor that will ensure that our nurses have the resources and the support they need to provide the best quality care to Queenslanders.