




Speech By
Hon. Cameron Dick

MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Budget, Health Services

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (2.14 pm): The Palaszczuk government is committed to ensuring Queenslanders have access to the best possible health care in the public system. This is why our government's first budget has sought to restore balance to the health system, with significant investments in front-line services, preventative health and patient safety. In 2015-16 the Palaszczuk Labor government will invest a record \$14.2 billion in Health. This is good news for people all over Queensland who rely on the health system. The government is providing an additional \$2.3 billion over four years to ensure health and ambulance services keep pace with the ongoing growth in demand for services.

We are tackling critical areas like the waiting list for the waiting list, an area ignored by the previous government and brushed aside by the Leader of the Opposition when he was the minister for health. We are investing \$361.2 million over four years to improve access for Queenslanders to specialist outpatient appointments. We are investing record amounts to rebuild and expand our nursing and midwifery workforce across the state to deliver real results in the quality and safety of care. As part of these commitments, over the next four years we will employ an additional 400 experienced nurses to help patients navigate the health system. We will offer up to 4,000 additional places to new Queensland nurse and midwifery graduates. We will legislate, for the first time in our state's history, mandatory nurse-to-patient ratios in acute wards.

But there is more to the Health portfolio than just hospitals. That is why the Palaszczuk Labor government will invest in preventative health programs that keep Queenslanders healthy and out of hospitals. In Diabetes Week I am proud to be the minister responsible for the Health for Life! program, which will invest \$27.2 million over four years to make it easier for people to identify and take action on the risk factors for diabetes and chronic disease. We will reopen the Biala sexual health clinic in Roma Street and develop a statewide sexual health strategy, with an \$18.5 million investment over four years.

The Australian Labor Party has a proud tradition of supporting the public health system, and I am proud to be a member of a government which is continuing that tradition.