



Speech By  
**Hon. Cameron Dick**


**MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE**

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Record of Proceedings, 27 October 2015

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**Lady Cilento Children's Hospital**

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (10.28 am): Ensuring the sickest Queensland children get the best possible care is a priority of the Palaszczuk Labor government. That is why, as Minister for Health, I have made it a priority to acknowledge and address issues raised by parents and clinicians regarding the Lady Cilento Children's Hospital. The problems with the commissioning and rushed opening of the hospital are well known. The hospital was never properly funded from before the time it opened at the end of November last year. However, I have been listening to the ongoing concerns raised by some parents and some clinicians.

Today, I am announcing a package of measures to help address those concerns. There are three elements to the package. The first is providing extra beds at the hospital. At the moment there are 300 beds at the Lady Cilento Children's Hospital, more than the combined 288 beds at the previous Royal Children's Hospital and the Mater Children's Hospital. The state government will provide up to an extra \$20 million in funding a year to deliver an extra 31 permanent overnight beds at the Lady Cilento Children's Hospital. This will bring the total number of funded beds at the hospital to 331. The 31 new beds will be across a number of wards and speciality areas and will include more paediatric intensive care unit beds. We will start recruiting the around 100 extra staff needed to effectively and safely operate those extra beds and deliver these extra services as soon as possible.

The second element involves bolstering the hospital's information and communications technology systems with a \$5.8 million funding boost to help support the rollout of integrated electronic patient records. This measure will help ensure clinicians have full access to a patient's medical records wherever they are in the hospital. This is on top of measures being put in place to help with the scheduling of medical appointments.

The third element involves investing an extra \$1.3 million a year into medical retrievals to ensure more sick children needing expert medical care can be retrieved from across the state without having an impact on existing intensive care patients. The current level of funding means the hospital can send one expert team out of the hospital to help support the retrieval of some of our most seriously critically ill children. This increase will mean two teams will be available for retrieval at any one time without impacting on existing intensive care unit staffing ratios. In short, this is doubling the capacity of the hospital to retrieve sick patients from around the state. In total, these measures will require an investment of up to \$70 million over four years. This new funding is on top of the additional \$19 million already provided in the 2015-16 budget.

In its first year of operation the Lady Cilento Children's Hospital is expected to admit more than 38,000 children as inpatients and see around 190,000 children through outpatient clinics. The dedicated clinicians and staff at the Lady Cilento Children's Hospital provide world-class treatment, and they have my full support. I want Queensland parents to know that we are listening to their concerns and addressing them in a rigorous and systematic way because Queensland children deserve no less.