




Speech By
Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk

MEMBER FOR INALA

Record of Proceedings, 16 June 2016

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Budget, Health and Education

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.35 am): I am proud that our budget this week provided record funding for Health and Education. These record budgets will improve front-line services in our hospitals and in our schools. The increase in front-line services over 2015-16 across the Public Service reflects the delivery of our election commitments. The increase in front-line services includes 1,940 extra nurses, 650 extra doctors, almost 480 extra health professionals, 940 extra teachers and teacher aides, 300 extra police, 54 extra paramedics and 44 extra firefighters. This year's budget delivers more new paramedics and additional nurse navigators.

Queenslanders elected my government to restore front-line services and to stop asset sales. The vast majority of the increase in government workers of 8,500 in 2015-16 has been in front-line nurses, teachers and police officers. As the Budget Highlights document states, 86 per cent of the increase in full-time-equivalent positions are in Health and in Education. More staff in Health, including nurses and doctors, improves care in our hospitals for Queensland families. More staff in Education provides for better schooling for Queensland children. I make no apologies for reversing the cuts to front-line services made prior to my government coming to office.

Mr Springborg interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Southern Downs, it is not appropriate to just try to speak over the top of the Premier.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Now that these services have been mostly restored, my government has introduced a fiscal principle to maintain a sustainable Public Service, so that overall growth in the Public Service does not exceed population growth on average over the forward estimates. This means that we will prioritise front-line services after restoring the cuts of the former Newman-Nicholls government.