




Speech By
Hon. Cameron Dick

MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE

Record of Proceedings, 24 May 2016

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Queensland Health System Payroll

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (2.30 pm): The Queensland Health rostering and payroll environment is large and complex. I am advised that staff are employed under two different acts, covered by nine different industrial awards and impacted by six different industrial agreements which include more than 200 different allowances. Each fortnight more than 95,000 pays are generated. This represents payments of \$286 million per fortnight, or approximately \$7.4 billion per annum in gross terms.

I refer to the questions asked of the Premier during question time this morning about an email dated 18 May 2016 concerning the processing of pay in the Department of Health which was tabled in the parliament. I am advised that the Department of Health can confirm that there has not been a failure in the Health payroll system. I am advised that the Queensland Health payroll and pay run have not been adversely affected. The email in question refers to the manual processing of a small number of payroll forms submitted by staff in the Health Contact Centre, Health Support Queensland.

I am advised that a small number of forms which cover casual shifts and overtime were not processed by Health department staff in time to be included in the pay run. Team members were asked to check their fortnightly pay advice and advise if they had been impacted. Fifteen staff were financially impacted. This represents 0.016 per cent of the 95,000 Health pays generated each fortnight. I am advised that all 15 staff members received a payment after the pay run to top up their pay on 19 or 20 May 2016. The quantum of those payments was a gross sum of \$6,519.18. All outstanding forms relating to this matter have now been processed.

You cannot change the facts: the rollout of the payroll system was a disaster. It was a disaster for staff, a disaster for Queensland Health and a disaster for the state, and that is why as Minister for Health I apologised for it last year. The fact is that the payroll system that our government uses to pay staff is exactly the same payroll system that Lawrence Springborg and the LNP left us. I will confront our work on payroll in the same way I have confronted the other challenges in our health system: by treating staff with respect and by being honest and open with them, which is more than the previous government ever did.