




Speech By
Hon. Cameron Dick

MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Advancing Health 2026

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (9.50 am): By 2026 the Palaszczuk government wants Queenslanders to be among the healthiest people in the world. This is an ambitious goal, but it is achievable if we have a shared vision and can bring all the elements together in a coordinated way. That is why last week I released the Palaszczuk Labor government's vision and strategy document for health in Queensland. *My health, Queensland's future: Advancing health 2026* is a 10-year plan to shape our state's health system.

Advancing Health 2026 has been developed through consultation with representatives from inside and outside our health system. The four directions set out in Advancing Health include promoting wellbeing, delivering health care, connecting health care and pursuing innovation. It is an ambitious plan with some concrete goals. By 2026 we aim to reduce childhood obesity by 10 per cent, reduce the rate of suicide deaths in Queensland by 50 per cent, increase life expectancy for Indigenous males by 4.8 years and Indigenous females by 5.1 years, increase levels of physical activity by 20 per cent and radically increase the availability of electronic health data for Queenslanders.

One of the key directions of this vision is pursuing innovation, making our state a place where ideas can be turned into realities. The recent Advance Queensland Innovation and Investment Summit, so ably led by the Premier and the Minister for Innovation, Science and the Digital Economy, identified the health sector as one which could help drive Queensland's economic growth. Health services is an area where Queensland has a strategic advantage over many other jurisdictions.

There are major opportunities for knowledge-based growth in health services exports from our state. There is a hunger throughout Asia and the rest of the world for the skills contained within the Queensland health system such as designing and constructing new healthcare facilities, the management of those facilities and the training of clinicians. As our economy transitions at the end of the mining boom, our health industries are well placed to capitalise on the export of services to Asian markets. I can inform the House that by the end of this year I intend to establish the Queensland Health Export and Investment Advisory Council to help facilitate health export services to Asia. We intend to partner with the private sector in this push to increase Queensland's exports of health services. I also intend to lead a trade delegation to facilitate further exchange of health and medical research information, expertise and skills between Queensland and Asia.

Queensland's health system is one of the best in the world. While the primary objective of Queensland's health sector is to provide the best possible outcomes to Queenslanders, there is an opportunity for us to capitalise on our leadership internationally, and this government intends to pursue this with vigour.