




Speech By
Hon. Cameron Dick

MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE

Record of Proceedings, 14 June 2016

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Rural Doctors Association of Queensland

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (9.59 am): Last Friday, 10 June, I was pleased to attend the Rural Doctors Association of Queensland Annual Conference. The RDAQ is one of the key medical associations that operates in Queensland. One of the issues I spoke to the RDAQ about was long-term workforce planning. The Department of Health has been working hard to develop a medical practitioner workforce plan for Queensland under the guidance of the Deputy Director-General, Prevention Division and Chief Health Officer, Dr Jeannette Young. It is an important piece of work that will create an enduring, positive legacy for health care in Queensland.

One initiative that has arisen out of this plan will lead to better trained GPs for rural and remote areas, something that I know many members of this House are interested in. GPs have an important complementary role to play in Queensland's public health system, particularly in rural and remote hospitals. To recognise this, the Palaszczuk government will subsidise training costs for general practitioners in regional, rural and remote Queensland. We will fund up to \$35,000 for regional, rural and remote general practices, and hospital and health services to facilitate opportunities for qualified procedural general practitioners to undertake skills maintenance and upskilling opportunities, supported by public hospital and health services. We will fund up to 10 positions in the first year, up to a maximum of \$350,000. This funding can be used for the GPs to undertake supervised procedural practice in anaesthetics, obstetrics and surgery. The funding may also be used for special interest maintenance and upskilling opportunities in mental health, paediatrics, dermatology and other non-procedural specialties.

A highly skilled and motivated workforce is a great thing for Queensland. A highly skilled medical workforce in the right numbers in the right place delivering the right services at the right time will deliver Queenslanders the best possible health care.