



Speech By  
**Hon. Cameron Dick**

**MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE**

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Record of Proceedings, 15 June 2016

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS**

**Budget, Health**

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (2.19 pm): The 2016 state budget generates economic growth, attracts investment, builds infrastructure and creates jobs now and for the future. Despite ongoing revenue challenges, this government will continue to invest in services and job-creating infrastructure. The recent release of MyHealth Queensland's future, *Advancing Health 2026*, a 10-year vision for a healthier Queensland, provides the platform we need to enable Queensland Health to strengthen its focus, decision-making and policy development over the next decade to address the challenges we face. Our vision is that Queenslanders are among the healthiest people in the world by 2026.

However, our health system faces significant challenges. In this budget we have continued to invest to build and rebuild front-line services. I am very pleased that a number of key initiatives have been included in this year's health budget to target specific issues—such as, \$9.6 million over the next three years to help hospital and health services build their capacity to prevent suicide; \$6 million over four years to expand pre-exposure prophylaxis, or PrEP, trials, which have the potential to reduce the transmission of HIV in Queensland; and \$15.8 million over three years to address sexually transmitted infections in North Queensland.

I was pleased to see support from stakeholders for the budget, including the AMA Queensland president, Dr Chris Zappala, who said in relation to our commitment to address sexually transmitted diseases in North Queensland that it would be 'a lifesaving measure'. He went on to say, 'Sexually transmitted infections are at epidemic levels in north Queensland, which is unacceptable because most of these diseases are preventable and treatable. This strategy will go a long way to fixing the problem.' I also want to take this chance to acknowledge the ongoing collaborative work that is being done by the AMAQ and others in relation to the delivery of health services on the cape.

The Queensland Ambulance Service budget has also grown to \$673.1 million, reflecting increasing demand. The budget includes provision for ongoing work for ambulance stations at Collinsville, Rainbow Beach, Yandina, Bundaberg, Birtinya, Kenilworth, Coral Gardens, Wynnum and Thursday Island. The budget will allow the QAS to recruit an extra 110 ambulance officers and commission 170 new and replacement ambulances. This budget delivers for our state's health system and it delivers for Queensland.