




Speech By
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MOTION: FEDERAL BUDGET, BACKPACKER TAX

International Nurses Day

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (2.33 pm): Today is a special day for me and all other nurses around the world. Today is International Nurses Day and last week we celebrated International Midwives Day with our professional colleagues. I take this opportunity to pay tribute to all my nursing and midwifery colleagues. I also acknowledge my nursing colleagues in this House.

From start to finish, at some point in your time on this planet you will be cared for by a midwife or a nurse. You will be welcomed to the world by a midwife. Your mother will have been taught to breastfeed and establish sleep patterns. If done well, we know this sets people up for life. On Saturday, I visited St Helena Island to honour the memory of the leaders of the 1891 shearers' strike. While there, I visited the children's graveyard. Every stone marked a reason for death, but today all of the conditions listed can be prevented or cured. Child health nurses keep us safe in the early years of our lives. Thanks to parent education and vaccination, we have significantly reduced mortality before the age of five.

School based nurses teach young people about nutrition and sexuality. They monitor physical development and mental health, and continue the vaccination schedule. I am incredibly pleased that the Palaszczuk government is increasing the number of school based nurses. After school, most of us will not see a nurse again until we reach our older years, although we may see a nurse in an emergency department if we show up to deal with our sporting or dancing injuries.

Some people will develop chronic illnesses, such as diabetes. Some people will develop psychiatric conditions. Other people will be affected by addiction issues. In all those instances, a nurse will be available to help the person to regain health. The creation of nurse navigators by the Palaszczuk government will greatly assist people who have regular contact with our health system due to complex health issues.

Some of us might next experience nursing or midwifery when we decide to study to become one. I am pleased that the Palaszczuk government has recognised the importance of supporting nurses at the beginning of their careers, announcing the employment of 1,000 new graduates per year. Perhaps the next interaction with a midwife will be when children are born. If the midwife-to-patient ratio legislation is passed today, more midwives will be able to deliver safe care to both mother and child.

As our parents age, we will see nurses in aged and palliative care. Dedicated nurses make sure people have dignity for their entire lives. As we age, many of us will see nurses more regularly. All sorts of things can go wrong and we may find ourselves in a medical ward, a surgical ward, an oncology ward or a coronary care ward. The care in all of those places will be safer if this House sees the sense of passing the nurse-to-patient ratio legislation later today. Rehabilitation and community nurses help people get back on their feet and back into their communities. When the end comes, it is a nurse who is there to comfort the patient and their family.

From birth to death, nurses and midwives are there caring for people, promoting and restoring health. I wish all nurses a happy International Nurses Day and all midwives a belated happy International Midwives Day.