



Speech By  
**Hon. Cameron Dick**


**MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE**

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Record of Proceedings, 11 May 2017

## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS**

### **International Nurses Day**

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (9.47 am): Tomorrow is International Nurses Day, a day when Queenslanders can pay tribute to nurses across the state. It will also be the first anniversary of the passage of the Palaszczuk Labor government's groundbreaking nurse-to-patient ratio legislation. These ratios set a benchmark for patient safety and embed in law the workforce conditions detailed in our business planning framework. This government understands that if we want to improve health outcomes for Queenslanders, we invest in nurses, and that is what we have done.

We all recall the dark days of the previous government when 1,800 nurses and midwives were sacked. Our government has taken a different approach. We have restored confidence in our health system by rebuilding the front line including, I am proud to say, through the employment of an additional 3,948 nurses since we came to government. Another of our important initiatives has involved the implementation of our election commitment to appoint 400 nurse navigators over four years to assist patients with chronic conditions and to break the home-to-hospital nexus by finding the centre of care most appropriate to their needs. I am delighted to report to the House that this program is proving to be a great success, delivering real benefits that are changing the lives of thousands of our fellow Queenslanders.

Paul from the Sunshine Coast, who suffers from complex chronic disease, said, 'I was in a desperate state. No-one could help me and I was seeing many different doctors—45 appointments in eight months. Now I have more confidence in managing my own illnesses and getting the right care. I have a hope for a better outcome. Someone is listening to me at last.' Juan from north Brisbane, who also suffers from complex chronic disease, said, 'My wife used to spend five days a week driving me to different appointments. Since Nikia started with us she has improved our care and our quality of life. She has become an integral part of our health care. Our family now has another member.' We have invested \$110 million over four years to make sure that up to 4,000 of our nurse graduates get a kickstart to their careers. Through our school-age nursing initiative we are delivering universal vision screening to prep students for the first time.

We call nursing a caring profession not in a glib or offhand way but out of deep respect for the humanity inherent in the work that nurses do. International Nurses Day presents us with a fresh opportunity to express our gratitude to nurses for the extraordinary contribution they make to our Queensland community each and every day.