



Speech By  
**Hon. Cameron Dick**


**MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE**

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**Budget, Health**

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (3.08 pm): The 2017-18 state budget has continued the proud record of the Palaszczuk government in the delivery of high-quality health services for the people of Queensland. This year's budget allocates a record \$16.554 billion to our health system—an increase of \$1.28 billion, or 8.4 per cent, on last year's allocation. It also represents an increase of 21.5 per cent, or \$2.93 billion, on the final budget of the previous Newman LNP government delivered by the member for Clayfield.

Our government believes that the investments we make in Health should focus on providing the best possible outcomes for patients. That is why the majority of this budget—almost \$14 billion—has been directed to our 16 hospital and health services, which are responsible for the delivery of front-line health services. This allocation reflects an increase in funding in both headline and real terms, with the proportion of the Health budget allocated to front-line hospital and health services rising to 84 per cent in 2017-18, up from 82.2 per cent last year and up from 80.8 per cent in the final budget delivered by the member for Clayfield.

One of the success stories in Health has been the effectiveness of our specialist outpatient strategy in reducing the list of people waiting longer than clinically recommended for a specialist outpatient appointment—the waiting list for the waiting list—which, I am pleased to say and report to the House, has been reduced by over 52 per cent since we came to office. Under this strategy the government is investing \$361.2 million over four years, with \$126.5 million allocated to be expended in 2017-18 to drive further improvement.

The 2017-18 budget builds on the achievements of the past two years in the health system, including \$15 million to deliver the winter bed management strategy, a further \$6 million to tackle the ice epidemic and \$1.5 million to extend the Neurodevelopment Exposure Disorder Clinic on the Gold Coast. In 2017-18 Queensland Health's capital investment of \$916 million will drive a range of infrastructure projects aimed at delivering improved health care. These projects include \$208.4 million over four years to deliver essential upgrades to a number of rural health facilities, including hospitals in Sarina, Blackall and Kingaroy. When it comes to health care, there is no better friend of Kingaroy than the Australian Labor Party. You can thank me later, member for Nanango!

I am pleased to say that the government will also invest \$131.8 million over four years as part of an ongoing process to enhance public hospital capacity. It includes \$19.6 million to expand the emergency department at Caboolture Hospital. It also includes \$112.2 million for planning and preparatory works to expand Caboolture and Ipswich hospitals and, I am proud to say, the Logan Hospital which serves the Woodridge electorate.

There are great challenges ahead as our system faces up to the growing demand for health services, especially at a time when the Turnbull coalition government seems determined to continue to walk away from its funding responsibilities. What this year's Queensland budget shows is a Labor

government that remains committed to delivering high-quality health care to Queenslanders wherever they live in our state as we continue to pursue our goal of making Queenslanders amongst the healthiest people in the world by 2026.