



Speech By  
**Hon. Cameron Dick**


**MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE**

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Record of Proceedings, 8 August 2017

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**Hospitals, Car Parking**

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (9.57 am): The Palaszczuk government recognises that the cost of car parking at some of our public hospitals is a real concern for many patients, carers and their families. On 23 July I was pleased to announce the Palaszczuk government's four-point action plan to improve the affordability of, and access to, hospital parking at public hospitals in Queensland. As the first step of the action plan, all hospital and health services have been directed to develop policies specific to each hospital with paid parking to address car-parking costs. The directive requires hospital and health services to develop and publish their local hospital car-parking concessions policy by 1 October this year and report on them annually. In particular, car-parking concessions will focus on the following categories: patients and carers experiencing financial hardship, which may include government concession card holders; patients and carers who need to attend hospital for an extended period of time; patients and carers who are required to attend hospital frequently; and patients and carers with special needs who require assistance.

The second step involves the Palaszczuk government providing \$7.5 million over the next four years to make available at Queensland public hospitals 100,000 additional free and discounted car-parking spaces each year. Increasing the number of concessional car-parking spaces means that many more people and families in need will have access to affordable car parking. This will mean a little less stress for patients and their families, especially those who find themselves burdened financially by the cost of parking.

The third element of our action plan is to make more car parking available. At Logan and Caboolture hospitals the government has funded ground-level car-parking solutions. In both cases this will also help with the future expansion of both hospitals. At Rockhampton Hospital Queensland Health has awarded a contract for the design and construction of the nearly 600-space multistorey car park, and the \$1.1 billion Herston Quarter redevelopment provides for expanded car-parking capacity to serve the hospital and future occupants of that site.

For future multistorey car park proposals at public hospitals, the government's preferred approach will be to develop a government portfolio model, financed by the Queensland Treasury Corporation. Finally, we have started work on developing options for car parking at the Lady Cilento Children's Hospital. There are no easy or immediate answers to increasing car parking at the Lady Cilento Children's Hospital precinct or in the immediate vicinity of the hospital, but we will work to ensure every option is considered. We are doing all of this because our government is a government that works hard to support Queenslanders when they need it the most.