




Speech By
Hon. Cameron Dick

MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Hospitals, Car Parking

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (2.18 pm): The Palaszczuk government continues its work on behalf of all Queenslanders to reduce pressure on the family budget, particularly when it comes to the cost of accessing our state's world-class health system. In July I announced that the government would provide up to \$7.5 million over four years to double the availability of car-parking concessions provided at Queensland Health facilities with paid parking. Those additional concessions became available on Sunday, 1 October, when hospital and health services published new concessional arrangements consistent with the government's four-point hospital parking action plan.

Parking is free at all but 12 of Queensland Health's 123 hospitals and 33 multipurpose clinics. The new concession framework will apply at the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital, the Prince Charles Hospital, the Princess Alexandra Hospital, the Lady Cilento Children's Hospital, the Gold Coast University Hospital, Robina Hospital, the Sunshine Coast University Hospital, Nambour General Hospital, Toowoomba Hospital, Ipswich Hospital, Townsville Hospital and Cairns Hospital.

The Palaszczuk government is very aware that the cost of car parking is a real concern for many patients, carers and their families. Increasing the number of concessional car-parking spaces means that many more people and families in need will have access to accessible and affordable car parking. This will not solve all problems with hospital car parking, but it will ease some of the issues facing patients, families and carers. While the government's focus must remain on funding front-line healthcare and medical services, we understand the financial stress that car-parking costs can cause for some people. Patients and carers experiencing financial hardship, who require assistance, are visiting frequently or who are in hospitals for extended periods of time will have increased access to free or discounted car parks. Increasing the number of concessional car-parking spaces means that many more people and families in need will have access to accessible and affordable car parking.

The government will continue to be involved in the development of future public hospital car parks. On 24 August I was pleased to visit Redcliffe Hospital with the Attorney-General and member for Redcliffe to announce the construction of a new multistorey car park that will commence next year. We are also in the process of delivering expanded car-parking availability at Logan and Caboolture hospitals. We are conducting a preliminary evaluation to consider options to improve availability and affordability of parking for patients and carers visiting the Lady Cilento Children's Hospital. By working to ensure staff, patients, carers and their families have better access to safe and affordable parking, the Palaszczuk Labor government is providing a helping hand to Queenslanders.