



Speech By  
**Hon. Dr Steven Miles**


**MEMBER FOR MURRUMBA**

---

Record of Proceedings, 15 February 2018

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

### Health Services

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (10.57 am): As the Premier outlined earlier, the Palaszczuk government is delivering more healthcare services to more Queenslanders right across the state. This year we welcomed 749 new doctors as interns and 361 new nurses and midwives at public hospitals around Queensland. At the Princess Alexandra Hospital in Brisbane an Australian-first skin cancer clinic is set to cut surgery wait times by more than half. In the Torres Strait we are rolling out 15 oral cameras to primary healthcare centres across the islands. This allows local healthcare workers to send images to the dental team on Thursday Island, giving more people access to specialist dental care. The Cairns Hospital will be able to see 1,400 extra cardiac patients by this time next year thanks to a second \$2.8 million cardiac catheterisation laboratory. At the Gold Coast University Hospital, while they have been planning and preparing for the Commonwealth Games they have also opened a new 24-bed general medicine ward and a new coordination hub.

Labor delivers services because Labor prioritises health care. When the LNP was in government it cut health services. Not content with the cut to health services while in government, now those opposite are covering up for Malcolm Turnbull's health cuts too.

**Mr LANGBROEK:** I rise to a point of order. I note your statement to the House about your expectations and basic important rules of the House. I wonder if you would give us a ruling about whether ministerial statements are allowed to be as inflammatory as this one is.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Members, my expectations have been outlined today. I have already stated them to the House. Members know of my love for sport and they know of my love for particular games, such as Rugby League. I will treat today as a preseason game, expecting that all members adhere to those expectations. Everyone in this House is on notice. I have set out my expectations. I thank the member for raising the point of order.

**Dr MILES:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. There is nothing inflammatory about outlining the LNP's record in government. Malcolm Turnbull owes Queensland's hospitals hundreds of millions of dollars for services they have already provided under an agreement that the federal government signed. The rest of us manage to pay our bills on time. Why is it so hard for Malcolm Turnbull and the LNP?

If the LNP cared about Queenslanders and their families, they would stand with us in demanding that Malcolm Turnbull pay us the money that he owes our hospitals. However, with or without the LNP, the Palaszczuk government will keep fighting for the hospitals in our state, because, unlike those opposite, we believe that Queenslanders deserve free world-class health care.