




Speech By  
**Hon. Dr Steven Miles**  
**MEMBER FOR MURRUMBA**

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Record of Proceedings, 15 February 2018

## HOSPITAL FOUNDATIONS BILL

### Introduction

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (3.12 pm): I present a bill for an act to provide for the establishment, administration and oversight of entities to hold and manage property for particular objects to benefit public health in Queensland, and to amend this act, the Drugs Misuse Act 1986, the Drugs Misuse Regulation 1987, the Fair Work (Commonwealth Powers) and Other Provisions Act 2009 for particular purposes. I table the bill and the explanatory notes. I nominate the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee to consider the bill.

*Tabled paper:* Hospital Foundations Bill 2018 [\[177\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Hospital Foundations Bill 2018, explanatory notes [\[178\]](#).

This bill will repeal and replace the Hospitals Foundations Act 1982. The new legislative framework will be easier to understand and apply in practice, ensuring hospital foundations can continue to focus on their important work supporting Queensland's public health system. The bill also amends the Drugs Misuse Act 1986 to allow industrial cannabis to be grown for use in hemp based foods following a change to the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code which commenced in November 2017.

I would like to acknowledge the role of my colleague, the Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning, in preparing this important piece of legislation and note that this speech is substantially the same because the bill is substantially the same as was introduced last term.

Hospital foundations support Queensland's world-class public health system, funding initiatives like new and improved facilities, state-of-the-art medical equipment, training and development opportunities for staff and life-saving medical research. Last financial year foundations raised over \$74 million for our public hospital and health services. There are 13 foundations across the state, run almost entirely by dedicated volunteers who do great work raising money for our hospitals to the benefit of patients, staff, families, carers and communities.

The Gold Coast Hospital Foundation, for example, runs a cancer patient transport service, providing a bus service for locals undergoing treatment. The Ipswich Hospital Foundation runs a wig library for cancer patients who through treatment have lost their hair. They also run a sun protection program providing schools, pools and community groups with free sunscreen. The Far North Queensland Hospital Foundation has raised \$1.4 million toward a second cardiac catheterisation laboratory at Cairns Hospital, expected to be operational by the end of the year. Wishlist, the Sunshine Coast hospital foundation, runs the Clown Doctors service, helping to make sick children spending time at the hospital laugh. Then there is the PA Research Foundation raising money for life-saving breast

cancer research through Project Pink and skin cancer research through the Smiddy Fun Run. These are just a few examples. This bill will allow foundations to continue their important work supporting the public health system, patients and their families without the burden of unnecessary administration.

The current act has not been substantially updated since it was introduced in the early 1980s. It is important that the legislative framework for foundations reflects their current work and operational needs. The bill streamlines governing and operation provisions for foundations to ensure they reflect contemporary practices, including provisions relating to financial transactions. This will provide foundations with more flexibility to manage their operations and finances. The minister and Treasurer will continue to maintain oversight of higher risk financial transactions. Under the bill, foundations will be established as statutory bodies. Each must be governed by a board made up of at least six members nominated by the minister and one person who is a hospital and health service board member.

The bill gives the minister increased powers to respond to concerns about a foundation's financial viability, administration or management. The minister is able to request further information or documents if he or she has concerns and boards will be required to notify the minister of a matter that raises significant concern about a foundation's financial viability, management or administration. If it is in the public interest to do so, the minister may recommend that Governor in Council remove all members of a foundation's board and appoint an administrator to manage the foundation.

The bill also includes amendments to the Drugs Misuse Act 1986. In November 2017, the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code was amended to permit some hemp seeds to be sold as food or used as an ingredient in a food for sale in Australia. This change followed a comprehensive review of the safety of hemp seed foods by Food Standards Australia New Zealand and was endorsed by all Australian ministers responsible for food regulation. Food Standards Australia New Zealand found that low THC hemp seed foods contain protein, dietary fibre and polyunsaturated fatty acids, particularly omega-3 fatty acids, which are recognised as being healthy. However, the Drugs Misuse Act currently prohibits industrial cannabis being grown for food. Without amendment to this act, the Queensland industry will not be able to grow industrial cannabis seed for use in hemp seed foods and would instead need to import seed from interstate or overseas.

The amendments in the bill not only align Queensland with the legislation of most other Australian jurisdictions, including New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia, but also allow Queensland industry to have access to the food export market. Hemp based foods are a growing industry and the amendments in this bill will allow Queensland to be part of this growth industry. The amendments in the bill will also tighten the regulatory control of researchers as they can grow high-THC varieties of cannabis by requiring applicants for a researcher licence to submit a plan outlining proposed risk management strategies, including supervision of contracted growers. The two existing categories of researcher licences will be replaced with a single researcher licence.

The amendments also provide more flexible options for responding to breaches of the Drugs Misuse Act, including specific regulatory offences for a breach of record keeping, notification requirements or a licence condition. The bill will make it an offence to fail to comply with a compliance notice issued by inspectors, and a breach of a licence condition is grounds for cancelling or suspending a licence.

I note that before the bill lapsed it was considered by the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee. I thank the committee for its consideration of the bill to date.

### **First Reading**

**Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (3.19 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

Question put—That the bill be now read a first time.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

### **Referral to Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee**

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Stewart): In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee.

## **Declared Urgent; Portfolio Committee, Reporting Date**

**Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (3.19 pm), by leave, without notice: I move—

That under the provisions of standing order 137 the Hospital Foundations Bill be declared an urgent bill and the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee report to the House on the Hospital Foundations Bill by 15 March 2018.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.