



Speech By  
**Hon. Dr Steven Miles**


**MEMBER FOR MURRUMBA**

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Record of Proceedings, 6 March 2018

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

### Hospitals, Federal Funding

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (10.32 am): The numbers are in and the maths stack up. Canberra owes Queensland hospitals a billion dollars. Now we know for a fact that, rather than face the people of Queensland and tell them why their tax dollars are not going back into hospital funding like they expect, Greg Hunt misled Queenslanders. I asked respected accounting firm KPMG to double-check our numbers, and it turns out that Malcolm Turnbull does not owe our hospitals \$970 million, as I reported at the last sitting. Adjusted to last month, he now owes \$1.12 billion. Today I can inform the House that the KPMG analysis confirms that our sums are right. For the benefit of all members here, I table a copy of their findings.

*Tabled paper:* Document, undated, titled 'KPMG Factual Findings' comparing NHR entitlements prepared by Queensland Health with the funding estimated to be paid by the Commonwealth government [252](#).

These findings confirm that, when it comes to health funding, Greg Hunt did not tell the truth. His LNP MPs and the state opposition have been hiding behind his lies and refusing to support Queensland's hospitals.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Minister, I ask you to withdraw those unparliamentary remarks.

**Dr MILES:** I withdraw. The Palaszczuk government and our hospitals have been working hard to increase services and employ more nurses and doctors, but that gets so much harder when Malcolm Turnbull will not even pay us for the operations performed back to 2014. Right now the full cost of those procedures is sitting on Queensland Health's overdraft, which is nearly maxed out.

In April last year the administrator of the National Health Funding Pool wrote to the federal Treasurer advising him that the Commonwealth owed Queensland hospitals significant funding for services already provided. Queensland is currently owed over \$168 million for services delivered in 2014-15 and 2015-16. The shortfall in 2015-16 affects the amount of national health reform funding flowing to Queensland for both 2016-17 and 2017-18. Because it compounds over time, the Commonwealth funding shortfall is now over \$1 billion. These claims have now been independently tested and checked and confirmed to be accurate. It is not good enough for the LNP federal government to lie about something this important.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Minister, I ask you to withdraw that unparliamentary language and I warn you under the standing orders. I only just warned you.

**Dr MILES:** I withdraw, Mr Speaker. This is about Queenslanders' wellbeing. It is about their livelihoods. We pay our taxes in good faith so that we will have access to health services when we need them. It is time for Greg Hunt and the Turnbull government to stop misleading Queenslanders and pay Queensland hospitals what they are owed.