



Speech By
Hon. Dr Steven Miles

MEMBER FOR MURRUMBA

Record of Proceedings, 22 March 2018

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Gold Coast Commonwealth Games, Queensland Health

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (10.00 am): The Gold Coast Commonwealth Games are going to be the best Commonwealth Games yet and Queensland Health is well and truly prepared for them. The health department has been working closely with Goldoc, the Queensland Police Service and other partners to ensure all preparations are in place for the event. Our health system has been a key player in a series of integrated, multiagency exercises that tested our agencies' responsiveness. I have seen some of those training exercises firsthand and I am pleased to say that our hospitals are prepared for any disaster event, natural or otherwise, that could occur in Queensland at the same time as the games.

Free health care will be provided for athletes, officials and members of Commonwealth Games associations and federations. There will be medical services at all training, competition and non-competition venues, including the athletes village. The Gold Coast Hospital and Health Service has worked hard to ensure essential public healthcare services are maintained for residents of the Gold Coast throughout the games.

Of course, they have also been working hard to ensure staff face minimal disruption. Parking will be made available for staff at Pacific Pines State School, with a free shuttle bus to the Helensvale train station and light rail stop. The first 300 staff to register for that arrangement will be provided with a free go card with \$50 credit for public transport. There are also 200 car parks available in the multistorey car park at the Gold Coast University Hospital and 60 car parks at Robina Hospital for staff who carpool with three or more staff. For those who cannot carpool, car parks are also available for staff at a discounted rate, through salary sacrifice, for less than \$8 a day.

In the village, Goldoc is using Queensland Health's expertise to keep our athletes and spectators safe and healthy. We will be encouraging everyone to use the free hand sanitiser available at refreshment stations and check-in points at all competition and non-competition venues. The health department has worked tirelessly to ensure that it can provide a high level of service, manage demand and respond to any emergencies for the duration of the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games.