



Speech By  
**Hon. Dr Steven Miles**

**MEMBER FOR MURRUMBA**

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Record of Proceedings, 15 May 2018

## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

### **Federal Budget, Hospitals**

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (10.19 am): For five long years now Queensland's hospitals have suffered from the federal LNP government's hospital funding shortfall, and the latest federal budget is no different. In contrast, in his budget reply speech last week, Bill Shorten committed to invest an extra \$2.8 billion in Australia's public hospitals, which would fully reverse the LNP's current funding shortfall.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Minister, apologies. Members to my left, I am having difficulty hearing the minister. I would like to hear his contribution. The House will come to order.

**Dr MILES:** Federal Labor's funding would make sure Queensland's doctors, nurses and hospital staff have the resources they need to deliver the best possible care for Queenslanders. Queensland has had to fight for every cent of our fair share of hospital funding from the LNP. The Turnbull LNP government spent 51 weeks arguing over undisputed health funding. They withheld payments from Queensland hospitals for procedures already delivered—as far back as 2014—and there is still millions missing. Queensland hospitals are still owed \$460 million from the federal government for the 2016-17 financial year. What patients, their families and Queensland's hardworking doctors and nurses need is for the Commonwealth to pay 100 per cent of what is owed and to pay it on time. A federal Labor government will honour their commitments and return hospital funding to a fifty-fifty split.

Last week, Scott Morrison handed down a budget that locked in less funding for Queensland hospitals. He did not even mention Queensland in his speech—not even once. He announced extra doctor training places for regional Victoria and regional New South Wales, but not for Central Queensland where they are needed. A Shorten Labor government will fully reverse the Turnbull government's shortfall by investing an extra \$2.8 billion. This investment would help reduce emergency department and elective surgery waiting times and give future certainty to our hospital and health boards, allowing them to plan for the future.

Speaking of the future, as the Premier has announced this morning, somewhere in our great state today in one of those hospitals we will welcome to the world our five millionth Queensland, no doubt with the help of one of our wonderful, hardworking midwives. It is for those newest and youngest Queenslanders that we invest in our public hospitals because they deserve the best possible health care throughout their lifetime.

The choice for Queenslanders at the next federal election is now very clear. Indeed, the choice for the people I represent in the seat of Longman is also very clear. They can choose Malcolm Turnbull, the LNP, Pauline Hanson and less funding for Queensland hospitals, or they can choose Labor and Bill Shorten who will restore hospital funding.