




Speech By
Hon. Dr Steven Miles
MEMBER FOR MURRUMBA

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Health System

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (9.47 am): Yesterday a Queensland Health doctor assisted by Queensland Health midwives in a Queensland Health public hospital delivered little Elizabeth Lynne Mackenzie, also known as our five millionth Queenslander. Her parents, Natasha and James, are stoked, but her two-year-old brother, Angus, was especially excited to meet his little sister yesterday. As Elizabeth grows up in our great state, she will get to experience the world-class health system we have here in Queensland. From important milestones like the birth of her own children to possibly some of the hardest times in her life if she ever gets sick or injured, our health service will be there for her.

The Palaszczuk government has made health a priority, investing in our hospitals and our front-line staff across the state to ensure that every Queenslander has access to world-class health care no matter where they live. We have increased funding to \$16.5 billion for more doctors, more nurses and more patient services. It is one of the reasons Queensland is such a great place to live, work and raise a family. It is why so many people move here every year, just like Elizabeth's parents, Natasha and James, who I understand moved here from New South Wales. I believe that Queensland will stay that way over the lifetime of our five millionth Queenslander and well beyond that.

We are a state of innovators, and science and technology is evolving rapidly, especially in the area of health. While this makes it difficult to know exactly what the future holds, I think it points to Queenslanders becoming much healthier. In fact, little Elizabeth could well live well into the 22nd century. She will likely experience wearable monitoring devices and medicines designed especially for her based on her genetic profile, not to mention everything we can use 3D printers for like creating tissue.

In Elizabeth's lifetime we may not even be treating the same diseases we are today. Vaccine preventable diseases in Queensland have reduced significantly over the past 30 years due to the uptake of the National Immunisation Program. In Queensland today most outbreaks of measles start from a case acquired overseas, and numbers of secondary cases in Queensland are very low. On 14 March 2014 the World Health Organization declared that we had effectively eliminated measles. Thanks to the Queensland invented Gardasil vaccine, we are close to eliminating cervical cancer. Given these advancements and given life expectancy in Queensland has continued to rise, our five millionth Queenslander, Elizabeth, might live well into her hundreds. There is no better place to live 100 years than here in Queensland.