




Speech By
Hon. Dr Steven Miles
MEMBER FOR MURRUMBA

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Budget, Health

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (9.50 am): Today the Palaszczuk government will deliver a record health budget for Queenslanders. It will be the largest-ever investment in health care by any Queensland government. We will be investing a huge \$18.3 billion—that is a \$798.7 million increase on last year's budget—to build our future hospitals, expand services, invest in preventive health and strengthen front-line services. The Palaszczuk government has made health a priority. We are investing in hospitals and front-line staff right across the state to ensure that every Queenslander has access to world-class health care, no matter where they live.

In 2018-19, we will invest a record \$17.3 billion to deliver health services, which is an increase of \$729.3 million from last year. The bulk of that funding will go to Queensland's hospitals. We will spend close to \$1 billion on priority health infrastructure and systems, expanding and building the hospitals of the future. This includes an additional \$50 million for the Health Technology Replacement Program to ensure our facilities are equipped with the latest and most efficient medical technology. We are funding our Building Better Hospitals program, including funding to progress the \$281.2 million Logan Hospital redevelopment and the \$12.6 million maternity services ward redevelopment, the \$252.7 million Caboolture Hospital redevelopment and the \$124.5 million stage 1A expansion of Ipswich Hospital.

Our public hospitals and ambulance services have experienced huge increases in demand for emergency department, outpatient and elective surgery services. The demand growth is driven by population, an ageing population, increased rates of chronic disease and a shift from the private hospital system to the public. Today, we will see a health budget that addresses that growing demand for public health services across the state. Today we will commit a further \$154 million to extend the successful Specialist Outpatient Strategy for a further two years. We are investing \$10 million to deliver the Winter Beds Strategy to help our clinicians and hospitals keep up with demand during the flu season. We are delivering on our commitment to Queenslanders to hire 3,500 more nurses, including 400 nurse navigators and 100 midwives. We have already employed an extra 2,800 nurses and midwives. This budget will continue to deliver more staff in our hospitals. We will continue to invest in preventive health services to tackle obesity and chronic disease rates, as well as mental health and wellbeing.

This year's Health budget reinforces our government's commitment to delivering high-quality health care to Queenslanders wherever they live. We promised more support for our health system and, in this year's budget, that is exactly what we are delivering.