




Speech By
Hon. Dr Steven Miles

MEMBER FOR MURRUMBA

Record of Proceedings, 14 June 2018

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Budget, Health

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (9.55 am): We are seeing unprecedented demand for public health services right across Queensland. We have an ageing population, increased rates of chronic illness and longer life expectancies. Additionally, Queenslanders are shifting away from private health insurance owing to increased costs and more exclusions. To meet this demand, the 2018-19 state budget is providing an extra \$729.3 million on last year's budget for health services. This funding will ensure that our hospitals and health services continue their strong performance in the face of significant growth in demand. This growth in demand is also why we are investing an additional \$154 million over two years to extend the Specialist Outpatient Strategy. The now \$515 million program is ensuring that patients have access to safe, quality health care when and where they need it.

To address demand in the long term, preventative health services are crucial to stop disease so that Queenslanders can live longer, healthier lives and stay clear of our emergency departments. Based on the most recent data, chronic diseases have caused around 80 per cent of health problems and early deaths in Queensland. That is why we have boosted funding to preventative health services that tackle obesity and chronic disease rates, mental health and wellbeing, and vaccination rates. We have committed an additional \$575,000 in programs to improve the health literacy and reproductive health of young Indigenous Queenslanders. We have also increased access to free 12-week quit-smoking programs for an additional 5,000 Queenslanders.

As promised, our government will create the Healthy Futures Commission Queensland, delivering on our election commitment. That commission will focus on two headline measures: reducing childhood obesity and increasing physical activity. Those measures will look at the conditions in which people live, work and play and ensure that children and families have the support they need to adopt a healthy lifestyle. We have committed \$20 million for local businesses, community organisations, academic institutions and government agencies to encourage regular physical activity and healthy eating. The Palaszczuk government is committed to enhancing the health of Queenslanders. This budget will clearly deliver on that commitment by supporting our preventative health services.