




Speech By
Hon. Dr Steven Miles

MEMBER FOR MURRUMBA

Record of Proceedings, 15 June 2018

**APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL; APPROPRIATION BILL; REVENUE
LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL; BETTING TAX BILL**

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (2.08 pm): I am proud of the Palaszczuk government's 2018-19 Health budget. I am proud that it delivers a record investment in health services across the state for the five million Queenslanders who call our great state home. I am proud that it provides for regional and rural Queenslanders in every corner of the state, some of whom live closer to other countries than to a tertiary hospital, so I was pretty surprised to hear what makes the Leader of the Opposition proud. She said she was proud of the former LNP government's record on Health.

I assume that means she is proud of sacking thousands of nurses and midwives; proud of spending \$77 million on advertising for a failed wait time gimmick, ripping \$77 million out of actual patient care for glossy TV ads; and proud of leaving over 100,000 Queenslanders languishing on the specialist outpatient list. That is the LNP's waiting list for the waiting list. She is very proud of herself today—proud of threatening to hold our hospital and health services to ransom for their funding and proud to rip more money out of our public hospitals to give to private companies—its donors—even though many Queenslanders do not have access to a private hospital.

Meanwhile, the member for Everton wants to talk about preventative health. This man was part of the LNP government that completely gutted public health units across the state, a government that cut 177 Queensland Health staff working in preventative health, many in our regions. The LNP government completely dismantled Queensland's public and preventative health service and did nothing to tackle obesity and the growing rate of chronic disease in Queensland. The LNP government slashed \$3.8 million in funding from 18 non-government organisations providing vital health promotion and prevention projects, including the Australian Red Cross. I would not be proud of that record and I would not be proud of that plan.

The Palaszczuk government has delivered a record budget of over \$18 billion that focuses on expanding specialist outpatient services, investing in preventative health and strengthening front-line services.

Madam Deputy Speaker, I seek leave to have the remainder of my speech incorporated in *Hansard*. I can advise that the Deputy Speaker has reviewed and approved my speech for incorporation. An electronic copy of my speech has been made available to Hansard.

Leave granted.

That's why more than \$14.7 billion will go directly to Queensland's 16 hospital and health services, and other providers of health care to public patients, meaning local services are properly funded.

We'll be spending close to a billion dollars—\$985.5 million on priority capital projects including hospitals and supporting infrastructure, mental health services and information technology. Over the next year, we will purchase new diagnostic machines, upgrade or redevelop hospitals, and expand medical units across the state. We are ensuring all Queenslanders have access to high quality, safe and efficient health services as close to home as possible.

Our capital investment includes an additional \$50 million for the Health Technology Replacement program, which will make sure our facilities are equipped with the latest and most efficient medical technology.

There's \$5 million over two years, in partnership with the Cancer Council Queensland, to refurbish the accommodation lodges for regional cancer patients in Townsville, Toowoomba and Herston Brisbane. And the budget includes \$2.5 million continuation of funding to support bariatric trials.

We'll also be progressing important works on major redevelopments like the \$1.1 billion Herston Quarter redevelopment, the new \$90 million Roma Hospital, and the \$44 million Hervey Bay Emergency Department redevelopment.

As well as completing works on three new Step Up Step Down adult mental health facilities in Mackay, Bundaberg and Gladstone.

Mr Speaker, the 2018-19 State Budget is the highest on record, growing by \$729.3 million to deliver more health services to more Queenslanders than ever before.

Mr Speaker, we are seeing unprecedented demand for public health services right across the state, due to a growing and aging population, the federal governments cuts to Medicare and a shift away from private health insurance.

Our extra funding will ensure our hospitals and health services continue their strong performance in the face of significant growth in demand.

Additionally, the detailed business cases will be finalised for the redevelopments of Logan, Caboolture and Ipswich hospitals under this government's Building Better Hospitals program, to meet rising demand for health services in South-East Queensland.

And unlike those opposite we won't play games with the books blowing out one waiting list just to make another look smaller. That's why we are investing an additional \$154 million over two years to extend the Specialist Outpatient Strategy.

The extra funding will reduce the number of patients waiting longer than clinically recommended for an appointment. The now \$515 million program is ensuring patients have access to safe, quality health care when and where they need it.

Then there's our \$10 million investment to deliver the Winter Bed Strategy. We are helping our hardworking doctors and nurses keep up with demand during the busy flu season. As part of the strategy, we will expand the bed capacity for South-East Queensland hospitals by around 10,000 bed days during the winter period, equating to approximately 90 beds.

Mr Speaker, our Government is delivering on our election commitments.

Turning to my electorate of Murrumba, this budget also delivers the commitments I made at the recent election and as well as new investments to deal with population growth.

This year's state budget locks in \$60 million for a new high school in Mango Hill.

In it we have delivered funding to build a new building with 6 learning areas and 2 specialist areas at Murrumba State Secondary College.

To cater for student growth we will build 16 learning areas at Griffin SS and 8 additional learning areas in an existing building at Mango Hill SS.

We will also spend \$250,000 to refurbish Science Labs & preparation room at Dakabin SHS.

In addition, \$579 000 will be set aside for maintenance and minor works at schools across Murrumba.

The budget includes the new \$30 million Dakabin Station: A safer and more accessible station that will allow all residents to travel safely, including seniors, those with prams and luggage and those with accessibility needs.

It will include a new footbridge with lifts, raising the height of the platforms, adding hearing aid loops, and building more parking—supporting 250 local jobs during construction.

Artist's impressions of the accessibility options for the new station are out for consultation now.

There's great news in the budget for local boaties who use the Dohles Rocks Road boat ramp at Griffin.

The boat ramp will be upgraded to four lanes with a new floating walkway, at a total cost of \$1 million.

And just outside Murrumba the Palaszczuk Government will fix the bottleneck at the Petrie roundabout where Anzac Avenue, Dayboro Road and Gympie Road meet by replacing the roundabout with a T-intersection. This \$30 million project is great news for locals and anyone who plans to go to the new university.

Also for roads the budget includes funding to commence design of widening and providing three through lanes at the approaches of Morris Road and Deception Bay Road at Rothwell Road Intersection.

I'm pleased to be delivering the commitments I made to Murrumba residents last year.

And as Health Minister I'm pleased this health budget that addresses growing demand for public health services across the state. It focuses on helping Queenslanders improve their lifestyles through prevention and ensuring children get the best start in life. And it highlights the importance of innovative, modern technology that will advance our facilities so they can continue to provide high quality health services.

We promised more support for our health system. This budget will show that's exactly what we're delivering.