




Speech By
Hon. Dr Steven Miles
MEMBER FOR MURRUMBA

Record of Proceedings, 15 June 2018

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Health Infrastructure

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (10.54 am): With this week's budget the Palaszczuk government is planning for the future for Elizabeth and for the member for Stafford's grandchild, Audrey, and that means building the hospitals of the future. We are investing \$985.5 million in health infrastructure across Queensland—almost \$1 billion. We are delivering over 700 capital projects across the state. These include new health facilities, the introduction of cutting-edge medical technology and the refurbishment of existing infrastructure. Not only are we planning for the future; we are stimulating Queensland's economy and creating more jobs for Queenslanders.

Our works program will support over 1,150 full-time construction jobs across the state over the next 12 months. We are investing \$120 million in the Health Technology Equipment Replacement Program, ensuring our doctors and nurses have the tools they need to deliver exceptional care. That is \$50 million more than previous years. We are investing in more technology that will mean clinicians can access higher resolution digital images and detailed reporting, helping them to diagnose faster and more accurately.

We live in a state of many spread across this vast land. That is why Northern and Western Queensland are a priority in this budget. Thanks to the Palaszczuk government's investment, construction is expected to begin on the Cairns South health precinct, which I know is of interest to you, Mr Speaker, and redevelopments of Atherton Hospital and Kingaroy Hospital. There will be even more infrastructure projects over the next 12 months which include the redevelopment of Aurukun and Palm Island health centres, Townsville Hospital clinical services, the Hervey Bay emergency department and ambulance station replacement, and the new Rockhampton Hospital car park. We believe that everyone should have access to high-quality health care. These investments are designed to improve the care delivered to Queenslanders.

I am pleased to report that these improvements in service delivery have been recognised in some perhaps unlikely quarters. The federal LNP is distributing this leaflet in the seat of Longman, and I table the leaflet for the benefit of the House.

Tabled paper: LNP leaflet regarding funding for Queensland hospitals [\[913\]](#).

This leaflet, authorised by Senator Barry O'Sullivan, presumably with his parliamentary communications allowance, which is taxpayer funded, highlights just how much better Caboolture Hospital in particular is doing now under the Labor government than it was in 2013 under the Newman government. Mr O'Sullivan wants to make sure that the voters of Longman know how much better Caboolture Hospital is doing now. He points out in his flyer that in 2013, 66 per cent of emergency patients were seen within 10 minutes, but now the number is 73 per cent. Mr O'Sullivan kindly points out that in 2013, under the Newman government, the number of people receiving their surgery within 90 days was 91 per cent, and now under Labor it is 95 per cent.

I welcome the Turnbull government finally acknowledging how well and how much better our hospitals are doing under Labor than they did under Newman. It is a credit to the hard work of our doctors, our nurses, our midwives, our health professionals and their support staff. I would like to pass on my congratulations to them.