



Speech By  
**Hon. Dr Steven Miles**


**MEMBER FOR MURRUMBA**

---

Record of Proceedings, 30 October 2018

## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

### **Health Services**

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (9.52 am): I rise to thank our hardworking doctors, nurses, midwives, healthcare professionals and their support staff. Last financial year they saw a record 1.9 million Queenslanders in emergency departments across the state. That is 60,000 more patients than in the year before. Ninety-nine per cent of the most critically ill were seen within two minutes. Our health staff are setting records: treating more people than ever before within clinically recommended times in our emergency departments, through specialist outpatient appointments and in our theatres. More Queenslanders are receiving the care they need.

Last financial year we increased the number of doctors, nurses and clinical staff in hospital and health services by more than 4.2 per cent. Since February 2015 we have increased medical staff by more than 20 per cent. It is more than just extra doctors and nurses treating more patients in new hospitals; we are also doing cutting-edge research. Take the Princess Alexandra Hospital as one example: Dr Victoria Atkinson's \$2.2 million study is investigating PD-1 inhibitors, which can help the body fight cancer cells; Professor John Upham is researching severe asthma which will help understand how very low doses of a common antibiotic work in treating asthma and which people respond best to the treatment; and Professor Maher Gandhi's \$1.3 million research into follicular lymphoma genetics will provide a detailed biological comparison of early and advanced FL to understand barriers to eradicating the disease and to predict outcomes of conventional therapy.

More than 63,000 people were treated at the PA Hospital emergency department last financial year. Nearly 70 per cent of all people were treated and either discharged or admitted within four hours. At the PA Hospital ED, demand has increased four per cent in just one year, which far outstrips population growth. A key government initiative to deliver better health care in Metro South is the new Patient Access Coordination Hub. The PACH is a command and control centre that gives our staff a bird's-eye view of demand and patient flow across Metro South. Just like an airport flight control centre, the PACH uses state-of-the-art technology and real-time data to monitor and coordinate patient arrivals, admissions and departures.

I thank and congratulate Queensland Health staff for their efforts in treating more Queenslanders than ever before. Every day I am inspired by the lengths our health staff go to to keep patients safe, happy and well. Today I am inspired by the team at Beaudesert Hospital who bring alpacas in to visit the patients. These three alpacas, known as Ed Sheeran, Tim Tam and Pancake, now make regular visits to Beaudesert Hospital as part of the Delta pet program, which brings the joy of animal companionship to those who need it most. You can check them and their visits out on the Queensland Health Facebook page. It is our investment in doctors and nurses, in new hospitals and in the kind of care that makes a difference that Queenslanders can be proud of.