




Speech By
Hon. Dr Steven Miles

MEMBER FOR MURRUMBA

Record of Proceedings, 1 November 2018

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Sunshine Coast University Hospital, Stage 2

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (10.02 am): The Palaszczuk government is investing heavily in more and better services for the people of the Sunshine Coast. The Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service operates six hospitals and health facilities and they excel in providing high-quality health care to more than 400,000 people in an area spanning 10,000 square kilometres. Those services are getting even better, thanks to Labor's investment.

We have delivered record health funding each budget for the Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service, including almost \$1.2 billion in 2018-19. That is in addition to the Labor commissioned \$1.8 billion Sunshine Coast University Hospital, which is the first completely new—not replacement—hospital in Queensland in 20 years. The construction and fit-out works for stage 2 of the Sunshine Coast University Hospital were successfully completed by 30 June 2018, as planned.

Planning for the commencement of stage 2 clinical services is well underway, which means more complex tertiary services for the people of the Sunshine Coast, allowing them to be treated close to home—

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, please resume your seat. Member for Kawana, you are warned under the standing orders. Your interjections are designed to disrupt.

Dr MILES: I repeat: this means more complex tertiary services for the people of the Sunshine Coast, allowing them to be treated close to home, without long trips to Brisbane. At the beginning of the year, the Paediatric Critical Care Unit opened. In a first for the region, the unit is providing care for critically ill children aged up to 16 years. So far, the doctors and nurses there have cared for 255 seriously ill children who otherwise would have been transferred to Brisbane for treatment.

The Radiation Oncology Centre provides comprehensive oncology, clinical haematology and—for the first time on the Sunshine Coast—radiation oncology. Prior to this, residents of the coast had to go to a private provider or travel to Brisbane for this life-saving cancer treatment. Now, 60 people a week are getting all the treatment they need in the one facility.

There is plenty more to look forward to with the plastics and reconstructive surgery unit to open by the end of the year. That will mean that patients needing reconstructive surgery after suffering skin cancer, breast cancer or serious trauma can be treated locally. High melanoma diagnosis rates and road trauma accidents make the unit a must for the region and will make travelling to Brisbane for reconstructive plastic surgery a thing of the past for Sunshine Coast locals.

Cardiac surgery is scheduled to commence in 2019 and the hospital will provide increasing services to care for sicker and younger babies from January 2019. The Palaszczuk government is delivering more services for Queenslanders, close to their homes, no matter where in our great state they live.