




Speech By
Hon. Dr Steven Miles

MEMBER FOR MURRUMBA

Record of Proceedings, 13 November 2018

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Nurses and Midwives; Ipswich Hospital

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (10.06 am): Queensland's nurses and midwives do fantastic work each and every day. Queensland has a strong health workforce, with tens of thousands of health professionals dedicating their lives to helping others. This has not always been the case. From March 2012 to June 2013 the Queensland Health nursing and midwifery workforce fell by a staggering 1,374 full-time-equivalent staff. This is the record of those opposite: sacking hardworking nurses and midwives.

I am pleased to say that the Palaszczuk government's record is in stark contrast. At the election, we made a promise to the people of Queensland to rebuild the front line by employing additional nurses and midwives. Between February 2015 and June 2016 we employed an additional 3,033 full-time-equivalent nurses and midwives, but we did not stop there. Between June 2016 and June 2017 an additional 1,250 hardworking nurses and midwives were deployed within our hospitals, but we still had work to do. I am proud to say that between June 2017 and June 2018 the Palaszczuk Labor government have employed a further 1,670 nurses and midwives in Queensland. We promised to rebuild the front line and by employing 5,953 full-time-equivalent nurses and midwives—a 22 per cent increase—we are delivering on that promise.

Our record in government is that we back our nurses and midwives, and through our record Health budget this year we will continue that support. Of these new nurses, over 230 are part of our successful Nurse Navigator program. These nurses assist patients with complex care needs to better engage with health services. They undertake a comprehensive healthcare assessment to identify the needs of patients with chronic disease and help facilitate their journey through the healthcare system, ensuring they get the care they need at the right time and in the most convenient place. I am proud of our record in government and I am proud to continue to deliver on our promises to the people of Queensland.

Finally, I want to thank our amazing nurses and hospital staff at Ipswich Hospital. They had a very difficult weekend, but they have shown immense courage and professionalism throughout this incident. To them and to all our hardworking, brave, kind and compassionate nurses across the state I say thank you.