




Speech By
Hon. Dr Steven Miles
MEMBER FOR MURRUMBA

Record of Proceedings, 14 February 2019

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Health System

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (10.01 am): I do not think it is a coincidence that Valentine's Day falls on the fourth anniversary of the Palaszczuk government being elected, because the Palaszczuk government loves Queensland. We are committed to Queenslanders in sickness and in health. That is why we are delivering a record \$18.3 billion Health budget this year. We do not skimp on gifts on this side of the House. Instead of roses, we are progressing major redevelopments at Logan, Caboolture, Ipswich, Nambour, Redcliffe, Kingaroy, Atherton, and Roma hospitals. Just this week we announced a major expansion to increase the number of beds at the Queensland Children's Hospital for some of Queensland's sickest children. We delivered a long overdue pay rise to our hardworking ambulance officers and paramedics. We have delivered new ambulance stations, more ambos and new cutting-edge ambulances.

We passed historic legislation to give women control over their reproductive health. We have launched the biggest statewide sexual health campaign of its kind in a decade and delivered more funding for the Queensland AIDS Council. We have employed more than 6,070 full-time-equivalent nurses and midwives to take care of sick Queenslanders.

We have fantastic Health staff here in Queensland. Our cardiologists mend broken hearts on Valentine's Day and every other day of the year. Since February 2015 they have performed 156,515 heart procedures and 74 heart transplants. It is love at first sight thanks to our brilliant optometrists and ophthalmologists, who have performed 97,244 eye procedures, although I note that for some of us the poor eyesight of our partners might be a blessing. I want to thank our hardworking physiotherapists, who are there for us when we fall—in love.

A bit over four years ago Queenslanders ended a toxic relationship. They broke up with those opposite; they swiped left on the LNP. They said, 'It's not us; it's you.' In their place they elected a government with heart.