




Speech By
Hon. Dr Steven Miles

MEMBER FOR MURRUMBA

Record of Proceedings, 3 April 2019

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Federal Budget, Hospital Funding

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (9.53 am): Last night was a chance for the federal government to prove that it can deliver for Queensland. Last night Josh Frydenberg could have reversed the savage cuts to hospital funding in his budget. He could have invested in the huge growth corridors in Brisbane's northern and southern suburbs. He could have further expedited the placement of aged care and NDIS patients who are currently languishing in a hospital bed waiting for a residential place, but he did not because the LNP do not invest in health care. The budget delivered last night locked in \$316 million in cuts to Queensland hospitals and it raided the NDIS to prop up a supposed budget surplus.

Here in Queensland the Palaszczuk government has had to do all the heavy lifting when it comes to building hospitals for our growing state. We have already opened 527 new beds in Queensland hospitals. That is 527 new beds that are open, available and treating patients now. The Palaszczuk government has a \$546 million plan to increase capacity by over 500 beds in SEQ hospitals, more than 150 of which will come online next year. Forty-seven new beds at Logan and Redlands will be open by next year. In fact, the members for Woodridge, Waterford and Macalister opened the new maternity expansion at Logan just last week. All up, 208 hospital beds promised at the last election at Logan will be delivered on schedule.

In Caboolture we will deliver 130 new beds, also on schedule. The first 32 new beds are already open. The Palaszczuk government is investing in hospitals like Logan, Caboolture and Ipswich to help meet the increasing demand in the south-east corner and we are investing in rural and regional hospitals like Roma, Nambour, Kingaroy, Atherton, Cairns, Hervey Bay, Gladstone, Thursday Island and Blackall—the list goes on.

Mr Millar interjected.

Mr Hunt interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Gregory, member for Nicklin.

Dr MILES: Last night the federal government could have supported Queensland's hospitals, they could have reversed their cruel cuts, they could have supported people with a disability, they could have invested in health care like Labor does, but they did not and they will be judged very harshly for it come election day.