




Speech By
Hon. Dr Steven Miles
MEMBER FOR MURRUMBA

Record of Proceedings, 30 April 2019

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Health Infrastructure, Jobs

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (9.52 am): The Palaszczuk government is delivering more and better health care for Queenslanders—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Members to my left, the minister has barely risen to his feet before being interrupted by, I think, quite childish interjections.

Dr MILES: Thank you, Mr Speaker. The Palaszczuk government is delivering more and better health care for Queenslanders and our record—

Mr Hart interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Minister, resume your seat. Member for Burleigh, you are warned under the standing orders.

Dr MILES: Thank you, Mr Speaker. The Palaszczuk government is delivering more and better health care for Queenslanders and our record health building program is creating jobs right across the state. The STARS project at Herston, under construction now, will deliver 184 new beds to the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital and is employing an average of 333 Queenslanders per annum while it is under construction. I know the education minister is particularly excited to see that project coming out of the ground, as are all Brisbane members on this side of the House. We are investing in the growth corridors north and south of Brisbane, creating jobs in the Logan and Moreton Bay regions. Some 612 Queenslanders will be employed to deliver the Logan and Caboolture redevelopments which will add 328 beds to our hospital system. The rapid expansion of Logan Hospital is creating jobs right now thanks to the passionate advocacy of the members for Waterford, Logan, Macalister, Woodridge and Springwood.

The new Caboolture Hospital emergency department which is under construction now is supporting an estimated 15 jobs each year, and I thank the members for Morayfield and Kurwongbah for their support of that project. Building the new Redcliffe Hospital car park will create an estimated 54 jobs annually, which I know is a matter of close interest to the Leader of the House. The new Adolescent Extended Treatment Centre at the Prince Charles Hospital will not just save lives and will not just save families from the misery of losing a loved one from suicide, but the roughly \$100 million we are investing to replace the Barrett Adolescent Centre, heartlessly closed by those opposite, will create an estimated 71 jobs each year. Thanks to the leadership of the Premier, my predecessor, Minister Dick, the member for Stafford and of course those brave families, a new world-class health facility will rise from the car park at Prince Charles to take the place of the Barrett centre.

It is not just in the south-east that our record program expanding our fantastic, free, universal public hospitals is creating jobs right across this state. Last week I was in Palm Island with the members for Townsville and Thuringowa to open the new Palm Island Primary Health Care Centre which supported 24 jobs during construction and will employ 3.6 full-time-equivalent doctors, 12 full-time-equivalent nurses and 16 full-time-equivalent health workers. In Roma we have created an estimated 97 construction jobs to redevelop its hospital. The Kingaroy Hospital redevelopment has created approximately 72 jobs. There are 32 Wide Bay locals who will put food on their families' tables thanks to the \$42 million emergency expansion.

In the most remote part of this state where many people live closer to PNG than they do to Cairns, the Torres Strait's Primary Health Care Centre redevelopment project is creating 25 jobs thanks to the efforts of the member for Cook. That is not to mention our new and redeveloped ambulance stations. That building program creates about 30 jobs every year everywhere from Cairns to Yarrabilba. When the Palaszczuk government builds new health facilities, we not only help doctors, nurses and health workers to save lives but also create jobs which help Queenslanders to provide for their families and support communities right across this great state.