




Speech By  
**Hon. Dr Steven Miles**  
**MEMBER FOR MURRUMBA**

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Record of Proceedings, 13 June 2019

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

### Queensland Health, ieMR Project

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (9.48 am): The Palaszczuk government is investing in our hospitals. On Tuesday we announced the biggest ever Health budget, because we know that public health care is important to Queenslanders and demands on our services are growing. That is also why we cannot be held back by outdated software and laborious paper based systems. The digital hospital program is making Queensland's hospitals safer than ever before. It has reduced the average length of stay, unplanned readmissions and the number of serious falls and pressure injuries for Queensland patients. There has also been a reduction in medication errors.

Independent research of more than 2,000 hospital staff across Queensland found the ieMR rollouts so far have been a major success. The Queensland Audit Office report released in December last year confirmed the digital hospital program is improving patient outcomes. The report found the digital program contributed to a significant increase in the early identification of deteriorating patients and a decrease in emergency patient readmissions and that staff can access clinical information faster and patient records are more legible.

This also makes our hospitals more efficient. Independent forecasting in June 2018 showed our digital hospitals have already realised \$187 million in both financial and economic benefits at the PA, Mackay base, Cairns, Townsville and Queensland children's hospitals. Patient safety experts and the vast majority of clinicians across Queensland agree that the benefits of the ieMR far outweigh the risks.

This morning I discussed with my director-general issues reported in the media today. He assured me he has confidence in the ieMR and that it is delivering better patient outcomes. For the benefit of the House, I table his advice to me confirming his support for the ieMR.

*Tabled paper.* Email, dated 13 June 2019, from the Director-General, Queensland Health, Mr Michael Walsh, to the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services, Hon. Dr Steven Miles, regarding digital hospital transformation [978](#).

Before every go live the director-general meets with clinicians to ask them if they believe their hospital is ready to implement the new system or they want to remain with the old, paper based record system while further preparations are made. If staff or clinicians believe they need more time or training with the system then the go live is rescheduled for when they believe they are ready.

As demand for public services increase and our system grows with it, we need the best technology for our clinicians and their patients. Every day in Queensland our digital hospitals open over 300,000 charts. More than 40,000 medications are administered. In just one month the ieMR will make 4.53 million orders across pharmacy, radiology, pathology and other diagnostic services—quickly and safely.