




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

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Record of Proceedings, 13 June 2019

**APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL; APPROPRIATION BILL; REVENUE  
AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (3.04 pm): The 2019-20 Queensland state budget delivers for all Queenslanders. This record investment of \$19.2 billion is an investment in the health and wellbeing of Queenslanders no matter who they are, what they do or where they live in our great state. This is an investment in Queensland Health's people, their hospitals, their technology and most of all their patients. It is the largest share of the state budget because this government is committed to Queenslanders—what they want for themselves, their dreams for their families and their hopes for their loved ones. We know that good health is central to that.

Our health services are the best in the country and amongst the best in the world. They do not deserve to be pilloried like they were by the Leader of the Opposition this morning. In her one-hour long whine, she bagged our hospitals and our hardworking health staff. She unveiled a magic pudding that can only be paid for with the jobs of those hardworking health staff, just as they were the last time the LNP was in government.

Our budget supports Queensland's health workers—like the surgeons at Prince Charles who have pioneered a new procedure that can mend a heart valve, a technique that requires the skill and precision to perform it in a single heartbeat, a procedure that will ultimately save the lives of so many Queenslanders, like Malcolm who I met on Friday. Thanks to this new procedure, he is back home with his wife, Eileen, and, importantly, has since been able to return to his much loved square-dancing lessons.

In an average day in the health system across Queensland, our doctors and nurses provide care to more than 10,700 inpatients and more than 37,600 non-admitted patients. They provide specialist outpatient services to more than 12,900 people, and accident and emergency services to around 5,500 sick and injured Queenslanders. They care for little Isabel. The Premier and I met Isabel and her parents, Christie and Steven, at the RBWH on Sunday. Isabel was born at 28 weeks. She is so little right now but her stay in our world-leading neonatal intensive care unit—which takes care of the tiniest Queenslanders from around the state—has meant she is growing every day, getting healthy and strong, and will be home with her parents in just a couple more weeks. It is stories like Malcolm's and Steven's and Christie's that show why more and more people are opting to use public hospitals than ever before. That is why we must ensure we have enough doctors, nurses, specialists, allied health staff and support staff and, of course, our amazing QAS staff.

We will hire 200 more paramedics. I was so proud to announce on Tuesday that the Queensland Ambulance Service budget will receive an increase of more than 10 per cent. Its \$885 million budget includes funding for new and refurbished ambulance stations across the state and 122 new and replacement ambulance vehicles. This budget will also fund a 3.4 per cent increase in hospital and health service staff across the state.

To improve flow and help patients navigate the system and better support our maternity services, the 400 nurse navigators and 100 additional midwives we committed to at the election will be made permanent. My first experience with the nurse navigators was when I met little Ged in Gladstone. His mum told me how their nurse navigator, Sue, had changed their lives. She helped coordinate his treatment between the Children's and Gladstone hospitals and made sure all his specialists were working together. She also made sure his siblings had somewhere to go to school in Brisbane while the family was down here so they did not miss out on their education while Ged got his treatment. As a parent, that really struck me because we all know it is hard enough to get your kids ready for school on a normal day. Imagine if you had to do it 500 kilometres from home and with a sick child to worry about. Thanks to this investment, our nurse navigators can keep reducing preventable admissions, cutting emergency department presentations and improving patient outcomes.

Along with our people, we are also investing heavily in our places: the ongoing redevelopment of the Logan, Caboolture and Ipswich hospitals, the redevelopment of the Roma Hospital, the upgrade of the Gladstone Hospital emergency department and the continuing expansion at Redland Hospital. We are investing in better imaging technology like the new MRI and second CT machines at Redcliffe. In the regions we will redevelop the community hospital in Blackall and the Sarina and Kingaroy hospitals, Townsville Hospital's clinical services, and the Maryborough emergency department and specialist outpatient department.

I am proud to say this year's Health budget also has a strong focus on mental health. It has the funds to complete the new adolescent extended treatment centre at the Prince Charles Hospital, two new youth adolescent step-up step-down units in Logan and Caboolture, and the refurbishment of two adolescent day program spaces at Logan and the Gold Coast. On Thursday I opened one of those step-up step-down facilities in Cairns and it felt like half the town had turned out. So many people were excited to see this wonderful space for young people to get help with the right support from nurses and mental health professionals in an environment that really allows them to heal.

The Palaszczuk government is also investing nearly \$40 million in a new acute mental health inpatient unit at Hervey Bay Hospital and refurbishment of the existing acute mental health unit at Maryborough Hospital. Along with mental health infrastructure, this budget also has a strong focus on mental health services and supports, like the \$61.9 million of funding allocated to suicide prevention to help us achieve the Queensland government target of reducing suicides by 50 per cent. It includes \$7½ million over four years for the Way Back suicide prevention services that provide follow-up support after a suicide attempt and nearly \$11 million for the establishment of safe haven cafes for people experiencing suicidal crisis, run by non-government organisations and staffed by allied mental health clinicians and peer support staff.

For patients, we are slashing specialist outpatient wait times, with \$77.4 million for the Specialist Outpatient Strategy. A \$17.5 million boost to aeromedical services will provide a vital round-the-clock lifeline of emergency transport for sick and injured people in Queensland, especially those living far from emergency care in rural and remote areas. We are investing in preventive health through our flagship Health and Wellbeing Queensland. We are taking care of Queenslanders with a disability whereas the Morrison government is ripping them off. Additional funding of \$52 million will help with transition delays and to plug emerging gaps in NDIS services.

This is the part of my budget speech where I would usually respond to those opposite on their proposals for health care. I cannot do that today because the Leader of the Opposition did not make a single proposal for health care in the state. She was happy to talk down our doctors and nurses but offered nothing in the way of a plan—no commitments to new hospitals or more service or staff—because the LNP has never had a plan when it comes to health.

I am proud that this budget is delivering more jobs and better schools and hospitals for people who live in my electorate of Murrumba. We will all benefit from the big upgrades at Redcliffe and Caboolture hospitals. The kids at Mango Hill State School are so excited about their new school hall. It will let them take their Wakakirri performances to the next level and let the whole school attend assembly together. A massive expansion to the hall at Kallangur State School will do the same. There is also funding for a new building with 14 more learning spaces at Griffin State School and a refurbishment of two blocks at Hercules Road State School. That is in addition to continuing the expansion at Murrumba State Secondary College and building the brand-new Mango Hill state high school, which will open next year.

The budget delivers the funds to upgrade Dakabin train station, intersection upgrades at Morris Road and Deception Bay Road and more safety barriers on the Bruce Highway. It even delivers for boaties, who will be able to get up the river or out on the bay easier and quicker after a complete upgrade of the Dohles Rocks Road boat ramp.

This is a government that cares about Queenslanders, about their health, their wellbeing and their livelihoods. I am proud of our investments in the services that people rely on and the projects that make their lives better across Queensland and in my special part of the world. I commend this budget to the House.