



Speech By
Hon. Dr Steven Miles
MEMBER FOR MURRUMBA

Record of Proceedings, 20 August 2019


APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL

APPROPRIATION BILL

Consideration in Detail (Cognate Debate)

Appropriation Bill

**Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence
Prevention Committee, Report**

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (3.47 pm): I welcome the tabling of the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee report into the proposed budget appropriations for 2019-20. I acknowledge the committee's recommendation that the proposed expenditure as detailed in the budget bills be agreed to without amendment. The 2019-20 Queensland state budget delivers for all Queenslanders. This record health investment of \$19.2 billion is an investment in the health and wellbeing of Queenslanders wherever they live in our great state.

More people are choosing to use our public hospitals than ever before. The latest data shows that in June 171,287 people sought treatment at Queensland public hospitals, including 1,441 critical category 1 patients and 25,377 urgent category 2 patients. The vast majority of all patients were treated and admitted or discharged from the ED within four hours and all of the critical category 1 patients were seen within two minutes.

This huge increase in demand means we need to ensure we have enough doctors, nurses, specialists, allied health workers, midwives and support staff. That is why this budget funds 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.

We are also hiring 200 more paramedics. The Queensland Ambulance Service budget is getting an increase of more than 10 per cent on last year. Their \$885.7 million budget includes funding for new and refurbished ambulance stations across the state and 122 new and replacement ambulance vehicles. 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 vital emergency transport for sick and injured people in Queensland, especially those living in rural and remote areas. We are investing in preventive health through our flagship Health and Wellbeing Queensland.

Then there are the major redevelopments of the Logan, Caboolture and Ipswich hospitals, the redevelopments of the Roma and Blackall hospitals and the new Kingaroy Hospital and the upgrade of the Gladstone and Maryborough emergency departments and the continued expansion of the Redland and Redcliffe hospitals. We are investing in better imaging technology, like the new MRI for Redcliffe as well as a second CT machine and a new MRI for Ipswich.

This year's health budget also confirms the Palaszczuk government's commitment to Queenslanders' mental health needs. The budget has funds for 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. The Palaszczuk government is also investing \$39.61 million for a new acute mental health inpatient unit at Hervey Bay Hospital and refurbishment of the existing acute mental health unit at Maryborough Hospital.

The Leader of the Opposition has not made a single, significant proposal for health care in this state—no commitments to new hospitals or more staff or services. The LNP has never had a plan when it comes to health care in Queensland, except to undermine public services to help line the pockets of its mates and donors in the private sector. The Palaszczuk government has rebuilt the public health system and its workforce after it was decimated by the LNP. We will continue to support Queensland Health workers by making sure they have what they need to take care of Queenslanders when they need it most.