




Speech By
Hon. Dr Steven Miles

MEMBER FOR MURRUMBA

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Health, Career Opportunities

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (9.53 am): The health sector is one of the biggest contributors to jobs growth in Queensland. Whether it is one of the new nurses, doctors or ambos we hire or the medical innovation jobs of the future, I would urge every young Queenslander, including those in the gallery, to consider health care if they want a skilled, well-paid, secure job that also has the added reward of helping people every single day.

The Palaszczuk government is ensuring the sector attracts and develops this future workforce by adopting smarter, more contemporary and innovative workforce planning models. Today I am launching a new website called 'Choose your own health career'. It highlights the career opportunities available in the health sector through vocational education and training pathways—from entry level roles to more senior positions. This will be particularly valuable in our regions. Evidence shows people who grew up in the regions, were recruited there or were trained there are more likely to take up a role in regional Queensland and stay there—where we need them most.

This career development tool provides a snapshot for students, teachers and parents of the different pathways available in secondary school and when they leave secondary school. It particularly highlights non-tertiary pathways. It includes 14 clinical and non-clinical career pathways—detailing qualifications, training courses and subsidies available for the job. It also features 25 personal stories of young people who commenced their careers in health via a vocational education and training pathway, as well as six patient journeys, to illustrate the number of healthcare and other support roles involved in their care.

One example is Megan, who is an enrolled nurse in Goondiwindi. Megan was always interested in nursing, starting her career in aged care while completing a certificate III in aged care as a school based trainee. Megan then went on to complete a diploma of nursing at TAFE, even completing the last semester remotely from Kingaroy. Megan is now working in an aged-care facility in Goondiwindi as well as doing a day a week at the medical centre. Early exposure to the health environment helped Megan through her studies and she is loving the diversity that health provides—even considering studying further once her kids are grown up in the hope of becoming a midwife.

This new online resource was developed following extensive consultation with clinicians and industry to identify job and skill shortages and project areas of demand in the future. The 'Choose your own health career' website is an example of how the Palaszczuk government is supporting our young people and investing in our future health workforce and the value we place on practical and vocational training.