




Speech By
Hon. Dr Steven Miles
MEMBER FOR MURRUMBA

Record of Proceedings, 3 September 2019

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Townsville Hospital, Renal Services

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (9.53 am): I am proud to announce that the Palaszczuk government will almost double the number of acute renal chairs at the Townsville Hospital from 17 to 30. The Palaszczuk government is investing more than \$6 million into expanding renal services in North Queensland. The expansion will increase capacity for haemodialysis and streamline hours of operation for patients. It will also increase the Townsville Hospital's capacity for emergency haemodialysis. Patients with complex renal failure, wherever they live, often require care that can only be delivered from major tertiary hospitals like the Townsville Hospital. This funding will expand the capacity of the unit, which is the referral centre for complex renal patients throughout the north, north-west and gulf communities.

In addition to this major infrastructure upgrade, the North Queensland renal fund has provided \$1.55 million in funding to support increased medical, nursing and allied health staffing for the renal units at Townsville Hospital and Palm Island and the Palaszczuk government has provided \$784,000 through the Advancing Kidney Care collaborative to better support renal dialysis patients. The funding will employ health workers to act as a single point of contact for patients having vascular procedures to help them navigate the health system with ongoing support and monitoring. We are also investing in services for people with advanced kidney disease to improve their quality of life and ensure kidney transplant coordinators are available to give the support kidney transplant patients need. It is part of our commitment to deliver better health services for every Queenslanders no matter where they live, including right here in Townsville.