




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

---

Record of Proceedings, 4 September 2019

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

### North Queensland, Health Services

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (5.48 pm): Heart disease is responsible for one in three deaths in Queensland. Last year we saw a 10 per cent increase in the number of patients arriving at hospital with a cardiac condition. Living with heart disease can be really difficult, especially if you are living in regional and remote Queensland far away from the major cardiac hospitals in Brisbane.

That is why we are investing \$12.4 million over four years to deliver cardiac care in some of the most rural, regional and remote communities. Townsville Hospital, along with Cairns Hospital, will become our cardiac hubs. This new hub-and-spoke model means that people in regional and rural areas will get the care that they need when they have to travel to a tertiary cardiac service such as Townsville Hospital. More importantly, regional and rural Queenslanders will have access to more care close to home through outreach services and telehealth services. That means that a patient in Mount Isa Hospital can have a specialist appointment with a cardiologist in Townsville via video. Clinicians will visit hospitals across the region, including in Ayr, Charters Towers, Ingham and Palm Island and west to Doomadgee, Mornington Island, Normanton, Burketown, Dajarra, Camooweal, Gregory Downs and Mount Isa.

We are hiring more staff to deliver this program, because that is what Labor governments do. We are hiring more doctors, nurses and allied health staff. A nursing coordinator, administrative staff and an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health worker have already been employed. This is an example of how the Palaszczuk government is delivering more and better health services for all Queenslanders, no matter where you live.

In Australia, one in six men is at risk of developing prostate cancer by the age of 85. Today many members are wearing red socks. Project Red Socks raises awareness for prostate cancer. I thank the member for Townsville for his advocacy for such an important cause and all members of parliament for their support.