



Speech By  
**Hon. Dr Steven Miles**


**MEMBER FOR MURRUMBA**

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Record of Proceedings, 17 September 2019

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**Formica, Mr M; ieMR**

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (10.06 am): Our paramedics have been an important part of the bushfire effort. Our health and ambulance staff do not stop saving lives when they are out of uniform, and I want to share one particular story with the House.

Just after 5 pm on 10 September, a house in Harristown was engulfed by flames, trapping a mother, her eight-year-old daughter and two family pets inside. Off-duty paramedic Michael Formica, who is the officer in charge at Murgon, was visiting family when he noticed the smoke. He raced to the burning house. When he entered the backyard he heard screams coming from inside. Michael entered the burning house and rescued the mother, but her eight-year-old daughter was still inside. He smashed a window and kept searching. He found a dog inside the cupboard and a puppy in the bedroom and got them out. He finally found the young girl in the garage, her face covered in soot. He examined both mum and daughter, assessed them for injuries and contacted QAS for backup. I am pleased to inform the House that the family's precious dogs were also unharmed. It was not until mother and daughter were handed over to hospital staff that Michael got treatment himself for smoke inhalation and a burn to his left hand. When Michael was asked how he felt about rescuing the family, his response was humble. He said he was just glad he could do something—a true hero in my books.

Last Tuesday intermittent logging difficulties were experienced by hospital staff using the integrated electronic Medical Record. I am advised that at all times clinicians retained electronic access to patient records for the prior seven days and a summary of their critical care needs. Queensland Health has advised me the issues arose because of an update to the system delivered by the vendor. It was resolved at 5.48 pm on Tuesday. Standard hybrid medical record contingency plans were enacted and I am assured there was no impact on patient safety during this time. A full review of this incident is underway.

The ieMR is improving patient outcomes. In 2019, going backwards to a paper based system is not an option. As I announced at estimates though, we have suspended the rollout schedule to allow time for existing ieMR sites to fully realise these benefits. Earlier this month Mr Damian Green was named as the new CEO at eHealth Queensland. Mr Green has been tasked with optimising the digital hospital system, including implementing any recommendations of the review of the incident last week before any further ieMR rollouts proceed.