



Speech By  
**Hon. Dr Steven Miles**


**MEMBER FOR MURRUMBA**

---

Record of Proceedings, 18 September 2019

## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

### **Bushfires, Hospital and Health Services**

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (10.12 am): Yesterday I told the House about just one of our hero paramedics who came to the rescue of a mum and her young daughter during the bushfire that destroyed their home. There are many more. But even heroes need help sometimes. Fires do not just have physical impacts, they can cause mental distress. I am pleased to say Queensland Health has been assisting with the psychosocial and emotional wellbeing response to the bushfires. Along with the excellent teams at QFES who provide support to first responders, teams from the Darling Downs, Metro South, Gold Coast and Sunshine Coast hospital and health services have been responding to community needs in the Scenic Rim, Stanthorpe and the Peregian areas. Two clinicians from each area have been deployed into the community recovery hubs and this includes specialist mental health clinicians and social workers.

The Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service also had four social workers at several of the evacuation centres established by the Noosa and Sunshine Coast councils where they provided psychosocial support and stabilisation to approximately 110 evacuees over two days. The teams have provided support to a combined approximately 100 community members in community recovery hubs across the southern Queensland region.

This support was also extended to firefighters and members of the rural fire brigades who have often come into the centres not in uniform, but also as members of the community. These heroes were also affected by property loss and seeing the damage on the front line. We know they are stressed and anxious over the trauma of the bushfire and the evacuations, while also experiencing grief and loss over houses, infrastructure, small business and employment. We know many are feeling overwhelmed and struggling with the thought that the fires may have been purposely lit. Support will continue to be provided to the communities impacted. Our people on the ground will work with the communities directly to continue this support as they move into recovery.