




Speech By
Hon. Dr Steven Miles
MEMBER FOR MURRUMBA

Record of Proceedings, 15 October 2019

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Gold Coast University Hospital, Surgical Ward

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (9.51 am): On Friday I officially opened a brand-new surgical ward for the people of the Gold Coast. This new ward will help meet increasing—

Mr Mander interjected.

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Everton, I am not going to remind you anymore about your interjections. I have already cautioned you. Leader of the Opposition, you will cease your interjections.

Dr MILES: This new ward will help meet increasing demand for emergency surgery. The demand for emergency surgery services continues to increase on the Gold Coast. Last financial year the team there performed 8,514 emergency surgeries—an increase of 809 on the previous financial year. This new ward delivers 20 more beds now and will grow to 28 beds next year, to allow the Gold Coast University Hospital to treat more patients than ever before—patients like Allan, whom I met. The fantastic team at GCUH is taking care of him after a tractor accident on his property.

The new ward on level 6 allows for trauma and acute general surgery patients to be cared for by specialist staff in the one ward, improving the surgical journey for the most sick and injured patients. The neighbouring orthopaedic ward on level 6 of C block will co-locate orthopaedic trauma patients like Allan. Co-location improves the patient experience with shorter hospital stays and efficient access to specialist medical, nursing and allied health staff.

The acute surgical unit includes a new senior surgeon, daily acute surgical operating lists and eight new beds in the theatre area where patients are prepared for surgery. This has resulted in higher patient satisfaction and better patient flow from the emergency department to theatres and wards.

I always enjoy visiting the team at the Gold Coast and can say with confidence that Gold Coast Health is consistently innovating to ensure the right patient is treated in the right place by the right highly skilled clinical and support staff. I would like to also congratulate them for their elevation to level 1 trauma status by the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons earlier this year. This reflects the Palaszczuk government's commitment to providing the best quality health care on the Gold Coast.

Recently we announced 60 new treatment spaces across the Gold Coast HHS. This includes 40 beds at the Gold Coast University Hospital and Robina Hospital, plus 20 new treatment spaces in a dedicated stabilisation facility to assist people experiencing a mental health crisis. The Palaszczuk government has invested a record \$1.5 billion in health care on the Gold Coast in the last state budget—\$81 million more than the year before. We continue to create jobs for doctors, nurses and paramedics right across the Gold Coast—employing 322 more staff locally this year alone.