




Speech By
Hon. Dr Steven Miles

MEMBER FOR MURRUMBA

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Hospitals, Emergency Departments

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (9.47 am): Every day thousands of Queenslanders go to Queensland hospital emergency departments because they can access cost-free, world-class care, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. We are seeing more people than ever through our emergency departments and our clinicians are saving more lives than ever before. We will never turn away anyone requiring medical treatment. Patients needing lifesaving treatment will always be seen first.

The Queensland government continues to invest in facilities and emergency departments across the state, committing \$1.8 billion to our EDs in the last budget. Since last year we have also increased emergency department staffing by more than 600 positions across the state. I welcome calls from the Queensland Nurses and Midwives' Union for a review of the entire health system—hospitals, GPs, Medicare, aged care, private health insurance and private hospitals—to understand why so many people are seeking care in public hospital emergency departments. I have met with health ministers from every other state and territory—Labor and Liberal National—and they all agree the current funding model needs a holistic review. I will discuss this with the QNMU when I meet with them next week.

The Queensland Emergency Department Strategic Advisory Panel of clinicians meets regularly to review and improve practices in our emergency departments. Since the 2015 election we have hired 1,996 more doctors, 6,199 more nurses and midwives, 511 more paramedics and 1,717 more health professionals like radiographers, pharmacists, occupational therapists, physiotherapists and psychologists. This financial year we are expecting to hire nearly 800 more nurses, 200 more doctors, 250 more health professionals and 200 more ambulance officers. The LNP has criticised the Palaszczuk government for employing too many more doctors and nurses. They do not support our hospital building program. Their only proposal is to privatise hospitals which would see nurses again sacked.

Finally, I want to thank the seven QAS crews who responded to that horrible crash at Bald Hills yesterday. The community I represent is reeling from the news that 36-year-old Shahid Islam, who died at the scene, was set to move into his new home in Griffin on Saturday. It is so, so sad. Our thoughts and prayers go to his wife and their four-year-old son.