




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

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Record of Proceedings, 14 July 2020

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

### Coronavirus, Health Update

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Deputy Premier and Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (9.42 am): The World Health Organization has said the COVID-19 pandemic is far from over and the worst may yet be to come. Many countries around the world are struggling to cope with the volume of COVID cases. These health impacts are bringing with them catastrophic economic consequences, job losses and business closures. Some places that thought it was over for them are experiencing a second wave, and so we cannot afford to be complacent. We can take nothing for granted. The worst for Victoria may be ahead of it. If we are not careful, if we do not defend our borders, we risk a second wave here too. However, thanks to the efforts of Queenslanders, restrictions here are easing and Queensland's plan to unite and recover from COVID-19 is in full swing.

In the past fortnight we have moved to stage 3 of the road map, earlier than expected, and lifted some of our border restrictions. This will allow more people to get back to work, creating jobs for Queenslanders. In that same time, we have recorded just three new cases. All of these were contracted overseas. In total, 1,071 Queenslanders have tested positive for the virus and four are still fighting it. We are in this position thanks to the sustained hard work of every Queenslander in following the restrictions and health advice.

In Victoria's last reporting period it recorded 177 cases and New South Wales recorded 14. Most concerning at the moment is the cluster of cases stemming from the Crossroads Hotel at Casula in New South Wales. So far, we have identified 21 cases of people who had visited that hotel and that is why the Chief Health Officer made a decision this morning to declare the local government areas of Liverpool and Campbelltown as hotspots. That means that anyone who has travelled in those local government areas in the 14 days prior to midday today will only be allowed into Queensland if they are Queensland residents and they will have to hotel quarantine. We are also strengthening penalties for people who breach these rules. We will propose this week that the maximum penalty should be \$4,004 or six months in prison.

We are continuing to encourage all Queenslanders as well as all visitors to Queensland to get tested if they experience any symptoms that could be COVID-19. Anyone entering Queensland will need to sign a declaration that they will get tested if they develop COVID-19 symptoms or face a hefty penalty. In peak tourist areas, we will have pop-up mobile testing clinics to boost our testing capacity. On the weekend the Cairns Public Health Unit trialled a pop-up clinic on the Cairns Esplanade and is looking at other locations. The Gold Coast has three pop-up clinics expected to be fully operational this week at the Gold Coast Airport, Albert Waterways and Surfers Paradise. We have been very well prepared since the start of this pandemic and can activate existing plans to deal with any new cases. If we do see a spike in cases, our hospitals and staff are ready because the Palaszczuk government has invested in health staff and in health infrastructure.