




Speech By
Hon. Dr Steven Miles
MEMBER FOR MURRUMBA

Record of Proceedings, 16 July 2020

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Coronavirus, Health Update

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Deputy Premier and Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (9.41 am): The director-general of the World Health Organization has just now released a statement. He said—

Let me be blunt, too many countries are headed in the wrong direction.

...

Mixed messages from leaders are undermining the most critical ingredient of any response: trust.

...

If the basics aren't followed, there is only one way this pandemic is going to go.

It's going to get worse and worse and worse.

On Tuesday we passed another milestone in this pandemic: over 10,000 people diagnosed in Australia. We have over 2,000 active cases in our country, but just four of those are in Queensland. Globally, over 13.4 million cases have now been reported and there have been over 580,000 deaths. Sadly, we lost three Australians to this virus this week. New South Wales continues to battle the outbreak from the Crossroads Hotel, with 34 cases now connected to the pub. In Queensland, 19 people have come forward to say they visited the hotel and we have now had 19 tests come back negative.

Our successful health response has been the critical first part of Queensland's plan to unite and recover. We are getting Queenslanders back to work by investing in local jobs and infrastructure. We are investing billions of dollars to build new hospitals and expand our existing ones, generating thousands of jobs. That work was already well underway before the pandemic hit, but it has taken on a new urgency as we battle economic headwinds.

The key thing to remember is that this pandemic is not over. Across the world we are still seeing countries recording thousands of cases every day. In some places it has not peaked yet. In others we are seeing second waves. The most difficult thing to manage now is complacency. We are in an enviable position and we want to stay that way, but every Queenslanders needs to play their part. Keep up the social distancing. Keep up the hand washing. Please get tested if people have even the slightest hint of a cold-like symptom and, most importantly, stay at home when they are sick. What we do now will have huge impacts on our future.

In a world post COVID-19, Queensland will have its own share of challenges, but I see some opportunities, too. I have always said that Queensland is the best place in the world to live and work and raise a family. If we stick to Queensland's plan to unite and recover, we will be the safest place, too.