



Speech By  
**Hon. Yvette D'Ath**


**MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE**

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Record of Proceedings, 26 November 2020

## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

### **Health System**

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (9.59 am): It is a huge honour to be appointed as the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services. I acknowledge the incredible work of the previous minister for health and ambulance services, the Deputy Premier, and what he did to help lead this state through COVID with Dr Young and the Premier.

Since being appointed in this role just two weeks ago I have met with some of Queensland's best and brightest frontline clinicians and paramedics, along with other incredible health workers, who make our health system one of the world's best. Last Friday I officially opened the new Blackall Hospital, a brand new \$19.6 million facility delivering state-of-the-art primary and emergency care, along with GP services, in a great win for central west residents.

I also visited the Sunshine Coast University Hospital and checked out its new brachytherapy centre and had a lovely chat with one of its first patients, Jean, who is benefiting from a much less invasive form of radiation treatment being delivered through this new service. I have already met many of the chairs of the hospital and health boards and look forward to working with them during this parliamentary term. I have been privileged to launch a new neonatal NeoRESQ vehicle at the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital and congratulate the organisation Running for Premature Babies foundation. I also have met with hardworking paramedics at the Queensland Ambulance Service's state operations centre.

It is because of these dedicated people in Queensland that we have been able to deliver a COVID pandemic response that is the envy of the world. Today yet again Queensland is celebrating another day of zero coronavirus cases, bringing us to 72 days without any community transmission in this state. As a result, Queensland's borders with New South Wales and Victoria will now open on 1 December without the need to quarantine. This is great news for our economy, for jobs, for the tourism industry and for family reunions.

We continue to monitor the situation in South Australia. We do not want to keep the border to Adelaide closed any longer than is necessary but because of its hotspots and continuing cases we do need to be vigilant. With respect to Adelaide, the Chief Health Officer has to take multiple factors into account, including testing rates, sewage testing, epidemiological evidence, contact tracing and whether cases are linked or unlinked. Our world-leading COVID response is made possible by the exceptional efforts of Queenslanders—and we once again say thank you—and our Chief Health Officer, whose advice we will continue to follow.