




Speech By
Hon. Yvette D'Ath

MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Coronavirus, Health Services

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (9.48 am): I am pleased to advise the House, as the Premier and the Deputy Premier have done today, that again we have had no new cases in the past 24 hours. We now have only 10 active cases and all of those individuals are in hospital. A total of 3,678 tests have been conducted in the past 24 hours. Again, I remind and encourage people if they are feeling unwell and have any symptoms that relate to COVID, even mild symptoms, to go and get tested.

This is against the very sad backdrop of more than 1.46 million coronavirus deaths globally. To put that into perspective, there have been over 63 million positive cases around the world. In the United States, in states like New York and New Jersey almost one-third of those positive cases have died. Almost one in three people who have tested positive in those states has died. I encourage Queenslanders to continue to do the right thing: wash your hands; continue to physically distance; check in at venues; and get tested if you are unwell.

I will now turn to an Australian health care first: this government's commitment to a \$265 million investment in seven satellite hospitals in South-East Queensland. I am pleased to advise the House that service planning is already underway to ensure that the right services are provided to the community at the right place and at the right time. Our new satellite hospitals will provide the people of the south-east corner with public health facilities close to home from Brisbane to Ipswich and Tugun in the furthest corner of South-East Queensland. This is critical considering the growth we are experiencing in South-East Queensland and which we expect in coming years. Most importantly, as we seek to recover from the global pandemic these hospitals will create up to 768 jobs in total during construction. As well as Tugun the new facilities will be located in Brisbane south near the QEII, Pine Rivers to service the outer Brisbane north area, and Bribie Island, Caboolture, Ipswich and the Redlands.

These satellite hospitals will provide services tailored to the needs of their local communities. They can provide ambulatory and simple day therapy services such as renal dialysis, chemotherapy, complex wound management and urgent care for minor injuries and illness. They can also include outpatient services and community based health services such as child and youth health services and aged and frail care services. These hospitals will incorporate nursing and midwifery and allied health and GPs, with virtual health appointments for quick access to medical consultations. They will also provide virtual health opportunities, including a range of rapid access consults, care coordination, remote monitoring and patient literacy services. Not only will they deliver care close to home; they will also take pressure off nearby major hospitals. The Palaszczuk government's continuing investment in health will see our state-of-the-art public health system continue to innovate and adapt to our growing population and its complex health needs.