




Speech By
Hon. Yvette D'Ath

MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Coronavirus, Health Update; Budget, Health System

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (9.48 am): As the Premier has reported to the House today, we have only three new COVID cases, all of them overseas acquired and detected while in hotel quarantine. That means that we remain with only 10 active cases. In the past 24 hours, 4,581 tests have been conducted. Again, I thank Queenslanders for their ongoing COVID-safe behaviour and encourage them to keep up the good work.

Today as Queensland swelters, I also encourage Queenslanders to stay out of the sun if possible, stay hydrated, keep up the water to children and pets, and check on your frail family members, friends and neighbours. If you are working outdoors, please take regular breaks to hydrate.

Our state budget includes a record health commitment of more than \$21 billion. This includes a record \$1.625 billion to deliver critical health infrastructure. We are building seven satellite hospitals. We are improving major hospitals and health facilities, including at the Gold Coast and in Cairns, Rockhampton, Emerald, Bowen, Cunnamulla and Thursday Island. These improvements include new facilities such as CT scanners, upgraded and expanded emergency departments, and new mental health units. Our health infrastructure commitment also includes \$18.1 million for new and replacement ambulance stations from Mareeba to Ormeau and \$26 million for new and replacement ambulance vehicles.

While we know that these infrastructure projects will provide the health services and facilities needed for our growing population, they will also help Queensland recover from COVID-19. Last year Queensland Health-built infrastructure programs supported more than 1,200 jobs. This budget's infrastructure commitment is expected to create more than 1,500 jobs. That is jobs for tradies on construction projects from the Torres Strait islands to South-East Queensland's rapidly growing metropolitan areas.

The government continues to make the right health investments to sustain current facilities and services and to develop new and renewed health infrastructure so that Queenslanders can access our world-class health system, no matter where they live.