




Speech By
Hon. Cameron Dick

MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Health System

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (9.47 am): The health of Queensland is central to the mission of the Palaszczuk Labor government. Ensuring the health of Queenslanders is the foundation of our economic strategy, which is why every year we increase the health budget. That increasing investment means more Queenslanders receive health care; it also means increasing economic opportunities. That is why last Wednesday the Deputy Premier; the Minister for Health; the Minister for Science, Meaghan Scanlon; the Assistant Minister for Treasury, Charis Mullen and I were joined by over 200 potential investors to hear from successful Queensland companies and organisations such as Ellume, Stryker, Patheon and Aspen Medical, all sharing why Queensland is the place to invest.

Through partnerships between business, industry and government, we are creating highly skilled jobs and continuing to showcase Queensland as an unrivalled location for investment, including in health care, health research and development, and health manufacturing. All of this means that Queensland is in the box seat to attract innovators, ideas and investment to fuel the ongoing growth of our state's economy. The idea that we have cut \$400 million from the health system is ridiculous.

Dr Miles: You should know a cut when you see one.

Mr DICK: I take the interjection from the Deputy Premier. If that were true, upwards of 3,000 staff would be sacked, in which case they would be on the streets.

Mr Crisafulli interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: The Leader of the Opposition will cease his interjections.

Mr DICK: The productivity dividend that is implemented within the health system is internal to the health system, and every last dollar is invested back into the front line. It is also important to note that a focus on efficiency within the health system—

Mr Bailey interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The member for Miller will cease his interjections. Treasurer, you have the call.

Mr DICK: Thank you, Mr Speaker. It is also important to note that a focus on efficiency within the health system is not new; it has been underway for many years. In fact, it was introduced in the 2012 state budget. In 2012-13 the so-called 'efficiency requirement' was set at three per cent on hospital and health services.

Mr Crisafulli: That was nearly a decade ago.

Mr DICK: I take the interjection from the Leader of the Opposition: it was a decade ago. He remembers well; he was a cabinet minister.

Government members interjected.

Mr DICK: An even higher efficiency requirement—

Dr Miles interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Mr DICK: In fact, in 2012-13 the so-called 'efficiency requirement' was set at three per cent on hospital and health services and an even higher efficiency requirement was imposed on West Moreton, at 4.6 per cent. This compares to two per cent currently. The 2012 efficiency requirement was on top of actual health cuts that saw over 4,000 health workers sacked. The Palaszczuk Labor government—

Ms Grace interjected.

Mr Lister interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: The member for McConnell will cease her interjections. Member for Southern Downs, let's not have a repeat of previous weeks.

Mr DICK: The Palaszczuk Labor government will never go back to those dark days. The Palaszczuk Labor government has never cut health funding and never will. We will always back the front line and we will always back health.