




Speech By
Hon. Yvette D'Ath

MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Health Services, Funding

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (9.56 am): Every day, Queensland's frontline health workers deliver world-class care to thousands of people in our busy public hospitals and health-care facilities. Our doctors, nurses, paramedics and allied health workers do an outstanding job delivering patients the care they need. The unprecedented demand for health services that Queensland is experiencing, along with all the states and territories across the country, is putting pressure on the health system. That is why I am pleased to announce today an extra \$100 million to further enhance patient care and support our frontline health workers in their crucial roles.

This \$100 million package is aimed squarely at tackling the unprecedented demand we are seeing in our busy public hospitals. It will create an initial 65 new beds in some of Queensland's busiest hospital and health services in the Ipswich, West Moreton and greater Brisbane regions. This important funding package will fund a wide range of much needed new beds and facilities, including: \$7.2 million to open an additional 26 beds at Ipswich Hospital; \$5.3 million for an additional 13 beds for patients in West Moreton; \$7.1 million for an additional 26 beds at QEII Hospital; \$20 million for winter bed funding to open more beds in areas with the most demand, which is on top of the \$25 million we have recently put in for increased bed capacity; \$15 million to permanently expand Hospital in the Home services which were temporarily established as part of our COVID response; \$10 million to permanently expand the Residential Aged Care Support Services which were temporarily established as part of our COVID response; and \$5 million to pilot targeted expansions of post-acute services, including physiotherapists and occupational therapists, to support faster and safe discharge from hospital.

We are also investing: \$4 million to support appropriate discharge of long-stay patients from hospital and ensure they receive continued care in the right setting; \$4 million to expand our mental health co-responder model, which has had so much success, with an additional four teams each year over the next three years; \$6.5 million reinvestment in successful programs delivered through the Care in the Right Setting Funding Program, including the Rapid Paediatric Sepsis Pathway; \$5 million for a targeted expansion of the Transfer Initiative Nurse model to support getting our ambulances back on the road faster; and \$2.5 million recurrent to scale up the Patient Access Coordination Hub to a statewide level and operate 24/7.

This important funding package is the result of consultation between Queensland Health, our hospital and health services, unions and other important health stakeholders. I thank them for their collaboration and for working with us to find these initiatives to go forward. The demand on our busy public health and hospital system is increasing year on year, despite the record investment by the Palaszczuk government. This is creating pressures not just in Queensland but across the country. Tonight I hope the Morrison government delivers the funding that Queenslanders deserve to ensure we continue to deliver the highest quality of care.