




Speech By
Hon. Yvette D'Ath

MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE

Record of Proceedings, 12 May 2021

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Federal Budget, Health

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (10.00 am): While the Morrison government's latest budget includes welcome additional funding for aged care and mental health, it fails to give Queenslanders our fair share. The federal government also fails to address the Commonwealth's NDIS and aged-care failures that keep almost 600 Queenslanders in public hospital beds instead of in more appropriate care settings. The latest federal budget also fails Queensland on dental care by not extending the National Partnership Agreement on Public Dental Services, once again stringing us out and giving us funding only till March next year. Again the Morrison government is leaving thousands of Queenslanders who cannot access private dental care to fend for themselves, particularly those living in rural and regional Queensland. Also unaddressed in the federal budget is the ongoing exodus from private health care, which is adding further pressure to Queensland's public health system.

While the additional funding for mental health services is welcome, we want to see that money spent on real people in their communities. There is no point giving funding directly to providers that are absent from our rural, remote and regional communities. If there is no provider, there is no service. There is no point giving funding to providers that are not out in our communities. We need the money to get to the people who most need it. We need a federal budget that supports and strengthens health services for all Queenslanders. We simply want a federal budget and a federal government that will give Queensland its fair share and values Queensland, just as all Queenslanders do.