



Speech By  
**Hon. Yvette D'Ath**


**MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE**

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## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

### **Nurses and Midwives**

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (9.57 am): Today is International Nurses Day and I say thank you to all the amazing nurses around Queensland who do incredible work. Last week we celebrated International Day of the Midwife. Thank you to all our great midwives. Today in the gallery we are joined by nurses, midwives and Beth Mohle, state secretary of the Queensland Nurses and Midwives' Union. Welcome to the Queensland parliament.

On this International Nurses Day, I recognise nurses across the country and across the world. Many have lost their lives. It is devastating to see. Health workers are not only caring for people and seeing people dying in front of them, but across the globe they have been dying because of COVID. We acknowledge their incredible efforts and the loss to their families, their profession and their communities.

Queensland nurses and midwives are health leaders, delivering quality care to thousands of Queenslanders each and every day. This is an incredibly diverse profession, including specialist and aged-care nurses, nurse navigators, nurse practitioners and our mental health nurses, just to name a few. I acknowledge those who have been on the front line of our COVID response since February last year, those who did and continue to do our testing, those who stand up clinics quickly when we have community transmission to make sure that people are tested and we get those results as quickly as possible, those who have managed our hotel quarantine, those who have looked after our COVID patients and those who are now travelling around this great state of ours vaccinating people to keep us safe and allowing our economy to open up. I say thank you on behalf of the Palaszczuk government.

We recognise that nurses and midwives play a very important role in delivering high-quality services that are valued by Queenslanders. That is why since 2015 we have delivered 7,500 additional nurses and midwives and legislated nurse-to-patient ratios, which the Premier has talked about. That was a very important initiative that we are extremely proud of. This builds on the Palaszczuk government's longstanding commitment to bolster midwifery and nursing services, including \$50 million for 100 midwives and \$245 million for the nurse navigator initiative. In addition to delivering the 7½ thousand additional nurses and midwives, we created 400 nurse navigator positions. Once again I commend our nurses and midwives for their dedication and commitment in serving our community every day. On behalf of Queenslanders we say thank you.