



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


**MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE**

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Record of Proceedings, 16 June 2021

## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

### **Budget, Health**

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (9.53 am): Labor governments have a proud tradition of delivering record health budgets—and this year is no different. The 2021-22 state budget includes a record \$22.2 billion for health, including an operational budget of \$20.9 billion. This is an increase of 3.4 per cent on the previous financial year. Our record health budget will focus on recruiting frontline staff, building health infrastructure and reducing emergency and surgical wait times. It will also enable us to continue our unwavering commitment to protecting the state from COVID-19—something we have never flinched from.

At a time of unprecedented demand for public health services, our record health budget is needed more than ever. As more Queenslanders turn to public health services because they have abandoned private health insurance or cannot access bulkbillable health care, it is increasingly up to the state government to step up where the Commonwealth will not.

This means investing in our clinical workforce to hire an extra 9,475 frontline health staff over the next four years, including 5,800 nurses and midwives; 1,500 doctors; 1,700 new allied health professionals; and an additional 60 paramedics on top of our commitment to deliver 475 new paramedics, taking the total to 535.

The budget will contain investment in bricks-and-mortar projects, with a \$1.35 billion capital spend that will improve health care in communities across the entire state. There is also further investment in initiatives that will make an impact on our surgery waiting lists and the backlog created at the peak of the pandemic last year.

This year's state budget also includes a record \$993 million in funding for the Queensland Ambulance Service. Our hardworking paramedics and ambulance staff are on the very front line of Queensland's public health response, and their tremendous dedication and commitment literally saves lives. The extra funding for QAS is a recognition of the vital role this iconic organisation plays in responding to the needs of Queenslanders who require emergency care. This is a budget for our times—record health funding amid unprecedented demand and a global pandemic—one that will benefit all Queenslanders.