




Speech By
James Martin

MEMBER FOR STRETTON

Record of Proceedings, 30 March 2022

ADJOURNMENT

Health System, Investment

 **Mr MARTIN** (Stretton—ALP) (6.38 pm): I am proud to be part of a government that is committed to high-quality health care for Queenslanders. The Palaszczuk government has put forward a record \$22.2 billion health investment in Queensland that focuses on recruiting frontline staff, building health infrastructure, reducing emergency and surgical wait times and continuing to keep us safe from COVID-19. This health investment is made possible by our strong economic recovery from the pandemic. Strong and healthy Queenslanders make for a strong and healthy economy, so it stands to reason that we should return some of those dividends to keep Queenslanders healthy.

There are a number of major initiatives that make up our record health investment including building seven satellite hospitals in an Australian first initiative. That is a \$265 million investment that will reduce pressure on our major hospitals and create more than 700 jobs during construction. One of these satellite hospitals will be located at Eight Mile Plains. It will deliver convenient community focused care closer to home and provide ongoing secure jobs in my local area.

This is great news for my community and will improve the quality of life for people who live in our growing area. Like all members on this side of the House, I will always fight for high-quality universal health care that is accessible to everyone. Another initiative that I am proud of is the additional 26 beds that are being provided at QE II Hospital by June this year as part of a \$12.1 million expansion program. We will deliver additional capacity which is needed as demand for health services on Brisbane's south side is growing. We are also increasing capacity of our health system by hiring more staff, with 108 new frontline ambulance officers who will help provide important care for our community. In addition, 795 new junior doctors have also joined the front line to help strengthen our public health system. I was pleased to meet a few of these new doctors recently at QE II Hospital and I wish them all the best as they start their careers.

A good public health system requires investment both at the federal and state level and the Palaszczuk government has put forward record health investment in Queensland, and we call on the Morrison government to do its bit by committing fifty-fifty funding. The LNP had its chance to do the right thing by Queenslanders last night in the federal budget, but it failed. A lack of affordable bulk-billing GPs, rising private health costs and Scott Morrison's failure to deliver proper funding for our hospitals is not helping. Right now Queensland picks up the majority of the cost. Increasing the federal contribution means that we can create more beds, hire more frontline staff and deliver more services. Queenslanders deserve a fair go from the Morrison LNP government. This includes urgent ongoing support to help Queenslanders recover from the floods by matching us fifty-fifty on our \$771 million resilience package along with a commitment to a fairer fifty-fifty funding model for Queensland Health.