




Speech By
Hon. Yvette D'Ath

MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Budget, Health

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (9.58 am): I have said many times that I consider it an honour and a privilege to be the health minister and I consider it an honour and a privilege to be a minister in a Labor government, particularly the Palaszczuk Labor government, that understands that to have a strong economy, we must have a healthy community.

I start by congratulating the Treasurer on an exceptional state budget. I am extremely pleased as Minister for Health and Ambulance Services that the 2022-23 state budget sets a new health and ambulance spending record. The budget locks in a record \$23.6 billion for our Queensland Health and Hospitals Plan as well as additional health funding of \$9.78 billion over six years to deliver 2,509 extra beds. That includes 289 of those beds to be delivered in the next two years. It builds on our seven years of investing in health, which has already seen 1,350 extra beds delivered since 2015 as well as an additional 13,000 frontline health workers and more than 1,100 ambulance workers.

This budget builds on the Palaszczuk government's ongoing investment in health. The Queensland Health and Hospitals Plan will create three new hospitals—a new \$1.2 billion Bundaberg Hospital delivering 121 beds, a new \$1.3 billion Coomera Hospital delivering 404 beds and a new \$1.3 billion Toowoomba hospital delivering 118 new beds—and \$750 million for a new Queensland Cancer Centre, the first of its type in Australia to bring all cancer therapies together in one place.

We are also pressing full steam ahead with 11 hospital expansions across Queensland including Townsville, Cairns, Mackay, Hervey Bay and across the south-east of Queensland. I am particularly pleased that Redcliffe Hospital will get a \$1.06 billion expansion to deliver 204 additional beds. This is in addition to the 869 beds being delivered through our current expansion projects. The budget also delivers \$943.5 million funding over seven years to replace rural and remote health facilities and staff accommodation.

The budget also includes \$1.64 billion in additional funding over five years for mental health, alcohol and other drug services. Under our Better Care Together strategy, there is an additional investment to deliver over 390 new beds—these are in addition to the 2,509 beds—and 1,400 new healthcare staff over the next five years across key priority areas such as infant and perinatal mental health; children and adolescent mental health; young adult, adult and older person mental health; mental health crisis support; eating disorders; suicide prevention and aftercare services; alcohol and other drugs rehabilitation; and psychosocial supports delivered by non-government providers.

The budget also includes \$1.1 billion for the Queensland Ambulance Service. This is an 11 per cent increase compared to the previous financial year. The investment will help the QAS prioritise regional and rural services to ensure accessible health care no matter the location, as well as recruit more frontline staff and open new facilities. Modernising the QAS will ensure the service continues to meet the healthcare needs of Queenslanders, now and into the future. Perhaps the AMAQ said it best when they tweeted yesterday that the budget is great news for Queensland.