




Speech By
Hon. Yvette D'Ath

MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE

Record of Proceedings, 16 August 2022

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Path to Treaty, Health Reform

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (9.57 am): As Queensland takes another significant step forward today and progresses along its Path to Treaty, our health workers will play an important role in healing the past and creating a better future for all Queenslanders. First Nations people are a vital part of Queensland's world-class public health network and I acknowledge the outstanding work that they do in health facilities throughout our state.

As a government, we have committed to a First Nations health equity reform agenda, one which places First Nations peoples and voices at the centre of Queensland's healthcare service, design and delivery. A cornerstone of the reform agenda is the legislative amendments passed in 2020 and 2021 to the Hospital and Health Boards Act 2011 and the Hospital and Health Boards Regulation 2012. These amendments require hospital and health services to appoint at least one Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person to their governing board and to co-design, co-develop and co-implement a First Nations health equity strategy. The health equity strategies are being co-designed and co-implemented in partnership with legislative First Nations prescribed stakeholders. The strategies will redesign and reshape local health systems based on what First Nations people need and want to reach their full health potential. This is crucial because we know that First Nations Queenslanders are disproportionately represented in our health system due to preventable diseases and chronic illness.

My vision is to have First Nations people represented across every professional stream and in leadership roles across the health system. We need more First Nations peoples working across our health system as policymakers, clinicians, system leaders, administrators and tradespeople. I will continue to work towards creating a stronger First Nations health workforce on Queensland's Path to Treaty to deliver better health outcomes for all Queenslanders.