




Speech By
Hon. Yvette D'Ath

MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Federal Budget, Health

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (9.52 am): Last night's federal budget was the first step in rebuilding Australia's shattered primary healthcare system after a decade of neglect. After a cut to Queensland hospital funding only in March this year, we now have an Albanese Labor government increasing our health funding by \$1.1 billion over the forward estimates. Total national health reform funding for Queensland is projected to rise by \$861.9 million, assisted greatly by the extension of the National Partnership for COVID-19 Response to the end of this year which the former government rejected. The Albanese government is also delivering \$375 million towards our Queensland Cancer Centre to provide world-leading cancer care to Queenslanders, which we have already set aside \$750 million for in this year's Queensland Health and Hospitals Plan.

As every member in this House knows, access to a GP and primary healthcare services has been in rapid decline in this country, and it is pleasing to see a federal government that recognises the problem and is willing to work with states and territories to address pressures on our health systems. Speaker, \$229.7 million for the GP grants program and \$235 million for urgent care centres will improve access to primary care and reduce pressure on our hospitals so that we can focus on the specialised services they were designed for.

Rural and remote Queenslanders will also benefit from the \$143.3 million to be invested in rural and regional primary care services, training, workforce incentives and trials for innovative models of care, including \$13.2 million to assist James Cook University to provide an additional 20 Commonwealth sponsored medical school places and establish a new medical training campus in Cairns. Mr Speaker, \$314.8 million over five years to strengthen First Nations health means more funds to complement Queensland's investment to help eradicate rheumatic heart disease, address and prevent chronic disease, and provide renal dialysis to First Nations people.

Queensland is also partnering with the federal government's \$38.5 million newborn screening program, complementing our June announcement to expand testing to up to 80 new conditions. \$2.5 billion for aged care will help our most vulnerable Queenslanders access care in home, and a 29 per cent reduction in the PBS maximum copayment, budgeted at \$787.1 million, will greatly assist Queenslanders who are struggling to make ends meet.

In addition, states and territories continue to meet monthly with the federal government to advance analysis and consideration of short-term measures to improve health care in Australia and funding reform opportunities, including: the removal of the 6.5 per cent annual cap; fifty-fifty funding; and the suitability of current funding partnerships and methodologies in the National Efficient Price in a post-pandemic world. The 2022 Albanese federal budget is a budget that puts the health of Queenslanders first.