



Speech By  
**Hon. Shannon Fentiman**


**MEMBER FOR WATERFORD**

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Record of Proceedings, 14 June 2023

## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

### **Budget, Health**

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance Services and Minister for Women) (9.58 am): Our doctors, nurses, paramedics and support staff are committed to providing world-class care to their fellow Queenslanders. The Palaszczuk government will always support them. Our health heroes work tirelessly saving lives every day, but we know that our health system is under increasing pressure. Emergency department presentations have increased by 100 per cent since 2015, and health workers are dealing with more serious and more complex cases. The Palaszczuk government is taking action. We know more needs to be done to address ramping. I am committed to improving the system for all Queenslanders. That is why I am so proud to be delivering the \$764 million Putting Patients First plan as part of our record \$24 billion health budget.

Putting Patients First is a five-point plan focused on tackling ambulance ramping at hospitals and addressing healthcare pressures being experienced right across the system. The key areas of the plan will focus on: keeping Queenslanders out of hospital and providing alternatives to emergency departments, including by expanding the mental health co-responder model; supercharging virtual care to transform how Queenslanders connect with healthcare services, including a new statewide virtual hospital; strengthening the Queensland Ambulance Service to meet increasing demand statewide with new ambulances, new ambulance stations and more paramedics; investing in the front-line health workforce and employing more specialty staff in our emergency departments; and providing many more hospital beds and more access to hospital beds with initiatives like transit lounges and a \$16 million allied health service enhancement to roster on these very important staff over the weekend to make sure Queenslanders get home quicker.

Putting Patients First is about addressing the pressures right through someone's healthcare journey—from the moment they call triple 0 to when they are discharged from hospital. I am so pleased that our plan has been welcomed by groups across the healthcare sector. For example, Dr Maria Boulton from the AMA said—

We are ... pleased to see that more recommendations from our Ramping Roundtable Action Plan have been adopted, including funding to extend hospital transit and discharge lounge opening hours to allow patients to be discharged after hours and on weekends, freeing up beds for patients waiting in emergency departments.

Mel Fox from Health Consumers Queensland has also welcomed the plan saying—

Just as healthcare cannot be one-size-fits-all, this plan reflects that multiple solutions are needed to increase equity and timeliness of access to healthcare. This includes shifting care from hospitals to community, and a greater focus on prevention.

Putting Patients First means continuing to listen and partner with users of the health system to implement and deliver on the success of these initiatives.

Our government will always back our health workers and will always support our health system. We know that more needs to be done to improve ramping, and this plan will do that and much more.