




Speech By
Hon. Shannon Fentiman

MEMBER FOR WATERFORD

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Satellite Hospitals

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance Services and Minister for Women) (9.44 am): From the first day I was sworn in as health minister I have been up-front about the challenge ahead. Today we have seen reporting on tier 3 alerts based on publicly available information now on the Queensland Health website that I released following my commitment to improve transparency and drive better performance. We all know our hospitals are under immense pressure. Over 2.2 million Queenslanders presented to our emergency departments in the last financial year, the highest number on record. Today I am happy to announce that thanks to the Palaszczuk government's nation-leading Satellite Hospitals Program we are starting to see early signs of improvement.

Since the Caboolture Satellite Hospital opened at the beginning of August we have seen a significant reduction in tier 3 alerts at the Caboolture Hospital. In August last year Caboolture went on tier 3 four times. In August this year, following the opening of our satellite hospital, the number of tier 3 alerts dropped to just one. Compared to last year, tier 3 alerts at the Caboolture Hospital have dropped significantly. Whilst it is—

Dr Miles: They don't want it to work.

Ms FENTIMAN: I know. Those opposite never supported our satellite hospitals and when there is good news they do not want to hear it.

Dr Miles interjected.

Ms FENTIMAN: That is a great question from the Deputy Premier. Will they sell them? Will they close them? That is what is at risk for the community.

Ms Bates interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: The member for Mudgeeraba will cease her interjections.

Ms FENTIMAN: Whilst it is early days we will continue to monitor these good trends. I am pleased to see that our satellite hospitals are doing exactly what we said they would do and that is to take pressure off our emergency departments. Since the minor injury and illness clinic opened last month, 1,800 people have walked through the door. That is 1,800 patients who would have gone to the Caboolture Hospital. In fact, more category 4 and 5 patients, those with less serious conditions, went to the satellite hospital last month than were seen at the Caboolture ED. This means that patients with less serious injuries and illnesses are going to our satellite hospital instead of our emergency department, which in turn is relieving pressure. This is working and this is what rising to the challenge looks like.

Our Big Build is Australia's largest health infrastructure investment: seven satellite hospitals, over 3,000 new hospital beds across the state including almost 500 new beds this year and over 9,400 more frontline health staff this term of government alone. There is more infrastructure, more beds and more

staff. While we are talking about our frontline staff, I thank them. They are clearly going above and beyond while our hospitals are under immense pressure and we thank them for that. We are doing everything we can to attract more staff and support the wonderful staff that we have.

Dr Miles: They're not duds.

Ms FENTIMAN: I take that interjection from the Deputy Premier; they are not duds. That is how we improve hospital performance. We tackle ambulance ramping; we relieve pressure on our EDs—more infrastructure, more beds, more staff.