



Speech By  
**Hon. Shannon Fentiman**


**MEMBER FOR WATERFORD**

---

Record of Proceedings, 24 October 2023

## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS**

### **Satellite Hospitals**

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance Services and Minister for Women) (10.02 am): We know that our health system is facing record levels of demand which is putting strain on our hardworking frontline health workers. A decade of underinvestment by the federal LNP government, combined with Queensland's booming population, has meant that our emergency departments are seeing more presentations than ever before, even for things that do not require emergency care. That is why we committed to building seven new satellite hospitals across the south-east: to ease the pressure on our emergency departments and provide more options for Queensland families.

We are absolutely committed to providing free, high-quality health care close to home and, as the Premier has said, we are delivering. Reports today show that over 4,600 patients presented at the Ripley and Redlands satellite hospitals during their very first weeks of operation. That is 4,600 patients receiving the high-quality care they need in a timely manner. Most patients were in the door, cared for and back on their way within 90 minutes. It is 4,600 fewer patients arriving at the Ipswich Hospital or Redland Hospital emergency departments.

The vast majority of patients who presented at our satellite hospitals were less urgent category 4 or 5 patients. Critically, the number of category 4 and category 5 presentations at both major hospitals decreased in the time that our satellite hospitals were open. In fact, there were twice as many category 5 presentations at the Ripley Satellite Hospital compared to the Ipswich Hospital in that same period. In the Redlands, that number was three times higher. This is remarkable and it means one thing: our satellite hospitals are doing exactly what they were designed to do. Patients are getting the care they need and we are reducing the burden faced by our busy hospitals and our hardworking health workers.

I am looking forward to seeing these results continue right across our fastest growing suburbs as more of our satellite hospitals come online. Tugun, Kallangur, Eight Mile Plains and Bribie Island: all of these communities and their local hospitals will benefit from the Palaszczuk government's nation-leading satellite hospital program. It is all part of our government's plan to deliver free, high-quality care closer to home.