




Speech By
Hon. Yvette D'Ath

MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Hospitals, Performance Data; First Nations Health Equity

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (9.54 am): I can advise today that our hospital performance data for the October to December 2022 quarter will be published on the Queensland Health Hospital Performance website. The data indicates that the Palaszczuk government's Queensland Health and Hospitals Plan is assisting our health workers manage hospital demand as we continue to learn to live with COVID. We have seen improvements in patient off-stretcher time, emergency department seen in time and the number of elective surgeries performed compared to the July to September quarter immediately prior. Despite an easing off in overall ED demand, we have seen a lift in demand in the most urgent and complex category 1 to 3 emergency department presentations. Health systems across the globe are under pressure, but thanks to our record investment in new beds, additional staff and innovative services, Queensland's health system is performing well compared to other Australian jurisdictions.

I also want to add my voice and support to the Path to Treaty Bill being introduced by the Premier today. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples continue to experience disparities and inequity in accessing health care, their experiences with health and wellbeing services and their overall health outcomes. That is why the Palaszczuk government and Queensland Health continue to break new ground on the path to reconciliation and social justice. I am pleased to advise that all 16 hospital and health services have now released their inaugural First Nations health equity strategies. These strategies have been co-designed and will be co-owned and co-implemented between First Nations people, key organisations and hospital and health services. For the first time, a commitment to working in partnership with First Nations people to achieve health equity and improve health outcomes is embedded in the legal framework guiding our public health system. Importantly, the strategies will also strengthen decision-making and power sharing arrangements with First Nations people when it comes to health care.

These health equity strategies are the first and will be reviewed and updated as required by law every three years in partnership with First Nations peoples to ensure we remain on track to achieve life expectancy parity by 2031. On this side of the House we have a proud history of initiatives to deliver on our commitment to First Nations health, including the appointment of the state's first Chief First Nations Health Officer in 2019 and legislative reforms to ensure First Nations representation on all our health and hospital boards. It is incumbent on all of us to continue to look forward and keep working diligently to shape a better, more equitable future for First Nations Queenslanders.