



Speech By
Brittany Lauga

MEMBER FOR KEPPEL

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Women and Girls' Health Strategy

 **Ms LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (2.10 pm): I rise to speak to the importance of the Women and Girls' Health Strategy, released by the Miles government this week. We asked women and now we are listening. In development since November 2022, the strategy was shaped by an extensive engagement process whereby almost 12,000 people contributed their insights and recommendations. Over 10,000 women have shared their experiences in the healthcare system. Sadly, more than half of those women told us they had been dismissed in a healthcare setting before. Thousands told us they were concerned about issues like endometriosis, maternity, mental health and sexual health. We heard from about 65 per cent of those women that cost and availability of appointments are a huge barrier to accessing health care. One submission even talked about a woman who missed multiple appointments or felt that she could not even make appointments because she had children in her care and was not able to organise a babysitter. There are many barriers to accessing health care for women, and that was one of the really strong themes that came through in the consultation that formed this Women and Girls' Health Strategy.

Australian women experience different health outcomes than Australian men and face significant barriers in achieving their full health potential. Some of these barriers include challenges with accessing services, with time and cost being significant factors. One thing is clear: women's health concerns have been overlooked and dismissed for too long, and our Labor government is taking action. Our message to Queenslanders is that we are a government that proudly champions the rights of Queensland women and girls. I want to know whether those opposite and the crossbenchers support this \$1 billion Women and Girls' Health Strategy in Queensland.

Our message to Queenslanders is that we are a government that proudly champions the rights of Queensland women and girls. That is why we have launched the Queensland Women and Girls' Health Strategy 2032, which is backed by a \$1 billion investment to support women and girls' wellbeing. The strategy has a number of key priority health action areas, including healthy lifestyles and bodies. Healthy lifestyles and physical activity were frequently raised as key components of preventive health and achieving better health outcomes for women and girls. Participants also raised sexual and reproductive health as one of the key areas of health that the strategy needs to look into. Mental health and wellbeing came through very strongly—in particular, the health response to domestic, family and sexual violence. The Queensland Women and Girls' Health Strategy will provide better health care closer to home for Queensland women and girls no matter where they live.