



Speech By  
**Hon. Shannon Fentiman**


**MEMBER FOR WATERFORD**

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Record of Proceedings, 11 June 2024

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**Health Workforce**

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance Services and Minister for Women) (9.38 am): The Miles government is committed to delivering world-class health care for Queenslanders closer to home, and we know that delivering world-class care means that we need world-class health workers. I have had the privilege of hearing from so many health workers right across Queensland this year through our workforce roundtable series. I heard from over 50 health workers at the Rockhampton Hospital, including Fridae King, an incredible midwife who has worked at Gladstone for a number of years in the Midwifery Group Practice program and who is a huge fan of the biggest ever expansion of Midwifery Group Practice in this state's history. At Ipswich Hospital, I heard from the director of paediatrics about the importance of ongoing clinical education in improving the quality of care as 'a rising tide that lifts all boats'.

These are just some of the voices that have built the foundations for our new workforce strategy. They are the ones who are experiencing the impact of the global workforce shortage and dealing firsthand with the huge demand for care in our hospitals, yet these amazing frontline staff continue to show incredible dedication and commitment to looking after each and every one of us. They work around the clock to make sure that Queenslanders get the care they need when they need it most.

The \$1.7 billion Health Workforce Strategy that we are delivering today is dedicated to all of our health heroes. Every dollar of that investment and every principle in the strategy is focused on training, gaining and retaining the health workforce that Queensland will need over the next decade. It is a strategy for the whole workforce—from our doctors and nurses to our security guards and wardies. We will start by delivering \$40,000 incentive payments to trainee doctors to become GPs and more places for our rural generalists to train in anaesthetics. These critical measures will ensure that the primary and surgical health care that our regional communities need will be delivered. I want to acknowledge the Australian Medical Association Queensland for their advocacy for this investment and for working with our government to deliver it.

We will also support our hardworking nurses to work at the top of their scope with our new nurse practitioner candidate roles, and we will support student nurses with our free TAFE program. Our \$5,000 cost-of-living placements will continue for student nurses and midwives, and we are expanding the eligibility payment so that all students undertaking their placements in regional, rural and remote locations can access this much needed cost-of-living support. We are doing this because we recognise the critical importance of our regional, rural and remote nursing and midwifery workforce and the value they provide to communities.

We are investing \$36 million to boost security staffing across Queensland to make sure that each and every health worker is safe at work. We are committing over \$23 million to secure Queensland's future nuclear medicine, diabetes and imaging workforces—all of which are critical to providing life-saving care. All of this is in addition to the \$129 million I announced with the Premier last week to employ 268 additional ambos across the state.

These investments build on our government's proud record of boosting our frontline workforce. Since 2015 we have hired over 23,000 health workers, including over 13,000 nurses and midwives. I am incredibly proud this morning to advise the House that we have now met our election commitment to hire 9,475 frontline workers in this term of government. This fantastic achievement has only been possible thanks to our nation-leading Workforce Attraction Incentive Scheme, where we have now seen over 1,000 workers come from interstate and overseas to work in regional Queensland. Our amazing health heroes show up to work every day to support Queenslanders, and it is only the Miles Labor government that has a plan to keep supporting them.