




Speech By
Hon. Shannon Fentiman

MEMBER FOR WATERFORD

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

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 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance Services and Minister for Women) (9.46 am): The Miles government is committed to delivering world-class health care closer to home. That is why we are delivering a record \$28.9 billion investment in our health system. This is a \$4.4 billion boost, more than 10 per cent above last year's investment and, as the AMA Queensland President, Nick Yim, said, 'This is a good budget for our health system.' It is what Queenslanders deserve. Our investments will allow us to deliver more care to more Queenslanders more quickly. This has never been more important.

Members will have heard me talk many times about the challenges our system is facing from record demand to a global workforce shortage. The Miles government has a plan to make sure that we meet these challenges. This budget includes a \$1.7 billion investment for our Workforce Strategy to recruit, retain and train the health workforce our state needs. A key focus of our Workforce Strategy is increasing the number of GPs so more Queenslanders can access primary care. RACG Queensland Chair, Dr Cathryn Hester, said—

I'm ... thankful to the Queensland Government for listening to GPs and their communities. Many of our communities, especially in the north of the state, desperately need this support.

We are also investing \$1.14 billion through the Putting Patients First plan to tackle health system pressures and address ambulance ramping. This plan recognises that the causes of ambulance ramping are complex and exist throughout the health system, not just in the emergency department. That is why the investments are targeted at patients' entire care journey from when they decide they need to go to hospital to when they are discharged. The best part is many of the initiatives in Putting Patients First have come directly from those on the front line. The AMA Queensland said—

We ... welcome the continued rollout of our Ramping Roundtable recommendations, particularly the measures to help patients move through hospitals faster and be discharged after hours and on weekends.

In addition, the plan invests in initiatives to keep Queenslanders out of hospital by investing in more options for primary care like our pharmacy scope of practice pilot and free vaccines. These initiatives have been supported by both the Pharmacy Guild and the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia. Chris Owen from the Pharmacy Guild has said—

If not for the support for community pharmacies across the state, Queenslanders would have less choice and access to important healthcare services.

This year's record budget also supports our investment in Queensland women and girls. There are over 2½ million women and girls in Queensland and we know that when they prosper and can fully participate in our economy our state is stronger. We are investing in responses to sexual assault, reproductive technology, midwife-to-patient ratios, increasing health education in schools and

continuing the GP in Schools program. We are strengthening women's economic security with reproductive leave and superannuation paid on parental leave. Karyn Walsh from Micah Projects has said—

This is the biggest investment we have seen in a long time and I am particularly excited that it represents partnerships between the government and the NGO sector when it comes to domestic, family and sexual violence, women's health and the early years.

The Miles government is committed to doing what matters for Queenslanders, and that means investing in our health system and investing in women and girls.

I also want to acknowledge that today is Thank a First Responder Day. Our ambulance, fire and police work hard every day to look after Queenslanders in their time of need. They support Queenslanders which is why we are committed to supporting them, so to all first responders we say thank you.