



Speech By  
**Hon. Shannon Fentiman**


**MEMBER FOR WATERFORD**

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Record of Proceedings, 10 September 2024

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**Nursing and Midwifery Student Placements**

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance Services and Minister for Women) (9.52 am): Across our state hundreds of nursing and midwifery—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I am sorry, Minister. Members to my left, I have not been able to hear the minister since she rose to her feet. You will cease your interjections or I will start warning members.

**Ms Grace** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Thank you, member for McConnel. We do not need your assistance.

**Ms FENTIMAN:** Across our state, hundreds of students are completing their final-year clinical placements, gaining invaluable frontline experience to prepare them for working in our hospitals. Thanks to investments from the Miles government, hundreds of students are undertaking their placements in regional, rural and remote communities.

As part of our \$1.7 billion Health Workforce Strategy, we are offering \$5,000 payments to eligible nursing and midwifery students to undertake their placements outside the south-east corner. Since its introduction in January this year, more than 250 students have received the payment. We know that this financial support is invaluable, especially as students face rising cost-of-living pressures. A recent survey by Queensland Health showed that 95 per cent of students receiving the allowance found it very helpful with their expenses. One student said that the incentive helped cover the cost of fuel and bills during their placement when regular employment was not feasible.

In addition to financial relief, the allowance encourages students to embrace country life and forge connections in the communities, often influencing them to stay after graduation. Many students reported that their placement experience shifted their career aspirations towards regional work. One student said, 'The experience definitely influenced my willingness and perspective on working rurally, and it has now become an option for my career.'

As Queensland's health minister, I am pleased with the positive impact the program is having on not only the students but also our regional communities. The initiative is a clear example of the Miles government's commitment to investing in the future healthcare workforce. I encourage more nursing and midwifery students to apply for the funding because working in regional or rural Queensland offers an invaluable experience. As one student noted, 'I loved it and feel my scope and exposure will be dramatically increased.'

This is just one of many initiatives from the Miles government that is aimed at strengthening the future of health care in Queensland. It is also one of many cost-of-living measures that is at risk if those opposite are elected in October. Our amazing nursing and midwifery students deserve to know whether

or not the LNP will commit to maintaining those payments. I take this opportunity to wish our final-year nursing and midwifery students all the best with their future careers. Those students represent the future of health care in Queensland and I know their contribution will be profound.