



Speech By  
**Hon. Steven Miles**


**MEMBER FOR MURRUMBA**

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Record of Proceedings, 21 March 2024

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

### Satellite Hospitals

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Premier) (10.03 am): From the cape to Coolangatta and way out west to Windorah, we are a government that is listening to Queenslanders, and we are a government that listens and acts. When communities in some of our fastest growing regions told us they needed good, accessible health care closer to home, we acted, and that is why we built seven satellite hospitals. Some 50,000 patients have now been seen across our satellite hospitals since the first one opened in Caboolture eight months ago. That is 50,000 people who have not had to go to our busy emergency departments, freeing up those doctors and nurses to dedicate their resources to our most critical patients. To put that into perspective, each day this month about 85 people have presented to the Kallangur Satellite Hospital every day, 81 have been cared for at Ripley each day, 67 in the Redlands each day, 63 a day in Caboolture and more than 50 a day in Tugun.

Another way we are bringing good health care closer to home is by giving our fantastic pharmacists the tools to help more Queenslanders. Today the health minister will announce a new training pathway to enable pharmacists to prescribe women and girls the contraceptive pill. When I travel across Queensland and talk to people, what I hear is that access to GPs and bulk-billed GP appointments in particular are a huge barrier, so we are giving more people the tools and training to prescribe the medication so many women rely on. I want to thank the women and pharmacists who have advocated for these changes. We have listened to them and we are delivering for them.

When I became Premier nearly 100 days ago I vowed that I would continue to listen to Queenslanders—to listen and act for police when they said they needed a helicopter in Townsville to help catch criminals, and we delivered that helicopter. I listened to our Sunshine Coast communities that wanted to see action on heavy rail to the region. We have announced that our government will work with the Commonwealth to build stage 1 from Beerwah to Caloundra. Last week my cabinet travelled to Rockhampton to listen to locals. We hosted a town hall meeting with nearly 200 people who were invited to ask anything they wanted. Mark asked what we are doing to secure large accommodation facilities to help some of our most vulnerable have somewhere safe to sleep. I was able to share with him that our \$3 billion Homes for Queenslanders plan is enabling us to buy up hotels and units so we can put homeless people into them.

Before the town hall meeting got underway I had the chance to meet with Nathan and Amanda White along with the health minister and the member for Keppel. Amanda was diagnosed with stage 4 cancer last year. A PET scanner can help our doctors find tumours or diagnose heart disease and brain disorders. If you live in Rockhampton, the closest scanner is in Mackay or Bundaberg. As Amanda told me, some patients need regular PET scans for the rest of their life to keep cancer at bay. I was touched by Nathan and Amanda's story and their advocacy, so our government will give Rockhampton a PET scanner. I really want to take this chance to thank the member for Keppel, who has been fighting to get this one for her community, and the member for Rockhampton, who supported the campaign. We will

invest \$7.8 million so that patients like Amanda can get the health care they need closer to home. As Nathan said, having the ability to have this local alleviates one massive stress that cancer patients go through to make it happen. We listened and we have acted. Our next community cabinet will be in Mackay in early April. I encourage anyone in Mackay or the greater Whitsunday region to come and join us.