




Speech By
Hon. Tim Nicholls

MEMBER FOR CLAYFIELD

Record of Proceedings, 24 June 2025

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Budget, Health Services

 **Hon. TJ NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (9.47 am): This budget is about doing what we said we would do: delivering a fresh start for Queensland, including providing easier access to health services. That includes delivering health care closer to home for Queenslanders living in the rapidly growing western metropolitan corridor. That is why on Sunday I was delighted to be joined by the Premier and the Treasurer to announce the Crisafulli government's \$638 million investment to fund operations at the new Mater Hospital Springfield.

Once opened in 2026, the Mater Hospital Springfield will provide 186 public beds, an emergency department, operating theatres, an intensive care ward, and maternity and paediatric care. Mater Mothers in the western corridor: who wouldn't want that? This is a critical project for the people of Ipswich and the West Moreton region. When we came to government, we expected to see funding set aside to commence operations at the hospital, but the cupboard was bare. Labor had allocated zero dollars for the staff, facilities and operational expenses that are actually needed to run a hospital. In a true *Yes, Minister* moment, the Labor Party would build the building but not put in any money to actually pay for staff or provide services.

We looked for the funding that would pay the doctors, nurses and midwives. What did we find? Nothing. We searched for the money set aside for vital operational staff—cleaners, cooks, orderlies and administrators. How much was there? Zero. We even looked for the funding that would keep the lights on, buy the surgical equipment needed, see the pharmacy stocked with supplies and power the sliding doors. Was there any? No, it was not there. It is abundantly clear that Labor did not believe in the Mater Hospital Springfield, but we do. We will not take the residents in the western corridor electorates for granted like Labor did. We will provide \$638 million for these critical services for the people of Ipswich and the West Moreton region—something that Labor failed to do—as we rescue Labor's failed hospital big build.

Mater Hospital Springfield is just one example of how the Crisafulli government's budget is delivering a fresh start for Queensland when it comes to health services. In the lead-up to the election we also listened to parents and frontline professionals who told us that undiagnosed health and development issues were causing children to fall behind in their early years of education, preventing healthy development. The Crisafulli government is determined to give every Queensland kid the best possible chance to start school strong. That is why we are committing to giving every Queensland kid access to free vision, hearing and speech checks before starting prep, and this budget delivers \$37.5 million to do it.

I stood alongside the Premier and the Treasurer this past weekend and said that Healthy Kindy Kids will be implemented in Townsville from this October and will ramp up to reach 60,000 Queensland kids when fully established, which will give the future of Queensland the strong start it deserves.

Through practical early intervention, we will give Queensland kids the best possible start and back parents with the support they need. Whether it is keeping kindy kids healthy or delivering the Mater Hospital Springfield, the Crisafulli government's budget will deliver on our commitments to the people of Queensland.