



Speech By  
**Hon. Tim Nicholls**


**MEMBER FOR CLAYFIELD**

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Record of Proceedings, 26 June 2025

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**Health Infrastructure**

 **Hon. TJ NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (9.46 am): The Crisafulli LNP government's first budget is delivering a record \$18.5 billion investment in health infrastructure as part of our landmark Hospital Rescue Plan. We are truly investing in the foundations for a fresh start. I want to quote from the Queensland Major Contractors Association, which said—

This investment will strengthen health networks across the state and ensure infrastructure keeps pace with growing demand.

We are delivering on our commitment to build bigger and better hospitals on time and on budget. From Currumbin to the cape we will deliver more than 2,600 new beds for Queenslanders—critical beds for communities across the state that would never have been delivered under Labor.

We had to find \$5.592 billion of new funding to address the cost blowouts on major hospital projects under Labor's failed capacity expansion program. Adrian Dwyer, CEO of Infrastructure Partnerships Australia, rightfully said that this budget includes 'the necessary clean-up of Queensland's hospital expansion mess'. I will say that again: Queensland's hospital expansion mess.

The Hospital Rescue Plan is also delivering more funding for the regions and a focus on local procurement opportunities—local businesses and local builders being able to deliver. Our investment includes more than \$350 million in new funding towards Labor's false promises of new and upgraded health infrastructure in rural and remote Queensland—projects like the new Cow Bay Primary Health Centre that is currently being delivered but had no funding source until now.

We have also relaxed BPICs, the CFMEU tax, so that local contractors can be involved in projects and our construction sites will be more productive. We have seen the benefit of this already, with recent procurement activities like the Townsville University Hospital car park out to tender to local builders employing local people delivering local outcomes. This is a major project that is underway that would never have been delivered this way under the Labor government.

The \$18½ billion spend also includes \$3.16 billion for the new Timely Investment Infrastructure Maintenance program to ensure our hospitals and health facilities are kept functional and safe. We have listened to the experts and the Auditor-General and have uplifted the allowance for capital maintenance for the first time since 2010. This includes \$2.6 billion of new funding because Labor left nothing for the future of this state. Our investment in this budget shows just how little Labor cared about delivering health infrastructure for Queenslanders.

**Mr de BRENNI:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Earlier this week, you made a very clear statement about the intent of ministerial statements. I submit to you that the health minister's language does not accord with your instructions around tempered language and he has been deliberately argumentative. I ask you to instruct him to remain within the confines of the time that has been allowed by this House for the provision of ministerial statements, appropriately.

**Mr SPEAKER:** When I made my statement, I asked for ministers to be relevant to the portfolio matters. The minister is providing context as to the budget and what the implications of the budget are on the portfolio, so I find he is being relevant.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** As I say, in conclusion in respect of our budget, our investment in this budget shows the direct contrast between how much we care about delivering healthcare services versus those opposite, who did not care and did not fund it. Mr Dwyer from Infrastructure Australia described Labor's capital program as 'little more than a mirage of media releases', and when we went to put together the health budget, that is all we found. Mr Sangster said in terms of their projects, 'In each case continuing with the currently scoped and programmed projects is an exercise in futility.'

We are delivering our commitment to establish a world-class health system for Queenslanders no matter where they live. With this investment, we will be laying the foundations for hospitals throughout this state for now and well into the future.