




Speech By
Hon. Tim Nicholls

MEMBER FOR CLAYFIELD

Record of Proceedings, 28 August 2025

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Hielscher, Sir Leo AC; Health System, Medical Officers

 **Hon. TJ NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (9.47 am): At the outset I associate myself with the comments of the Treasurer and extend my condolences to Sir Leo Hielscher's family. As a former treasurer, I know he was always free with his advice and it was welcome.

Queensland's 15,000 medical officers embody the values of our public health system. They are dedicated, resistant and unwavering in their commitment to delivering quality care in their communities. They include junior and senior doctors, registrars and specialists. They deliver care across emergency departments, surgical and specialist wards and other Queensland Health facilities. They work in all corners of our state. I say to the Deputy Premier: they work everywhere, man, often in challenging conditions to care for Queenslanders when they need it most and are at their most vulnerable.

I am pleased to update the House that the Queensland government has reached in-principle agreement with Together Queensland and the Australian Salaried Medical Officers' Federation Queensland for a new certified agreement for Queensland Health's 15,000 medical officers. I want to thank the Together Queensland union and ASMOFQ for their collaborative engagement and their shared commitment to supporting our valued medical officer workforce.

The new agreement delivers a guaranteed eight per cent increase to wages and allowances over three years with an additional wage increase through a CPI uplift adjustment if that is triggered. The new agreement also delivers for regional and remote Queenslanders, with targeted initiatives to attract, recruit and retain doctors where they are needed most. Some of these initiatives include: a new career medical officer classification, an increased attraction and retention allowance for rural generalists, and a regional and rural attraction allowance to medical practitioners with rights of private practice. These initiatives are critical.

During Labor's decade of decline, approximately 3,400 doctors, nurses, midwives and other critical frontline workers left rural and remote Queensland. This agreement demonstrates the Crisafulli LNP government is not only healing Labor's health crisis but also delivering on its commitment to grow the health workforce by 46,000 additional health workers by 2032.