



Speech By  
**Hon. Tim Nicholls**

**MEMBER FOR CLAYFIELD**

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Record of Proceedings, 28 October 2025

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**Health Services, Crisafulli LNP Government**

 **Hon. TJ NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (10.01 am): After a decade of decline, a year ago Queenslanders voted for a fresh start. The Crisafulli LNP government is delivering that fresh start for Queensland. We are delivering and we are healing Labor's health crisis. We started off early in the piece by abolishing a patient tax—gone! We started off early in the piece by delivering real-time data through our Open Hospitals program, re-establishing monthly release of information—something those opposite cancelled.

Queensland's elective surgery waitlist skyrocketed during Labor's decade of decline—almost doubling, from 35,000 in February 2015 to more than 66,000 in 2024. These are not just numbers on a page; they are Queenslanders who are suffering from a reduced quality of life simply because they are waiting for essential surgery. That is why the Crisafulli government committed to stabilise the elective surgery waitlist within 12 months. I am pleased to update the House that not only have we delivered on our commitment; we have delivered it two months early.

The latest data confirms that under the Crisafulli government there has, in fact, been a five per cent drop in the waitlist and over 143,000 patients have been treated. This includes Queenslanders like Russell, whom the Premier and I visited in July, who could get back to work after waiting on the elective surgery waitlist for far too long for a hip replacement. That was under our \$100 million Surgery Connect Surge. It also includes Patricia, whom I met with earlier this month at Logan Hospital, who had been waiting for seven years for hip surgery and described receiving her life-changing surgery as like winning the lotto. These are just two stories among the record 143,000 surgeries the Crisafulli government has delivered since coming to office—10 per cent more surgeries than for the same period last year.

Our \$100 million Surgery Connect Surge was intended to deliver 10,000 additional surgeries, but through careful planning and partnership with the private sector we actually delivered over 12,300 more surgeries. We are not stopping there. The Crisafulli government's record \$33.1 billion health budget is building on this success through a further investment of \$1.75 billion over four years. This will deliver an additional 30,000 elective surgeries this financial year alone. We have already gone out to tender, and I can confirm that contracts have been offered to our partners for 2025-26. They have all been accepted and they are getting on with the job. This is just one way the Crisafulli government is delivering for Queensland: by fast-tracking access to more elective surgeries and restoring health services to Queenslanders closer to home.