



Speech By


Hon. Tim Nicholls

MEMBER FOR CLAYFIELD

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Health System

 **Hon. TJ NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (9.54 am): Throughout 2025 the Crisafulli LNP government has been delivering for Queensland and providing easier access to health services no matter where you live. Our record \$1.7 billion investment in elective surgery, including Surgery Connect, delivered on the government's commitment to stabilise the elective surgery waitlist ahead of time. We have gotten Labor's failed Capacity Expansion Program, described as the 'mirage of media releases', back on track through the \$18.5 billion fully funded Hospital Rescue Plan. We are supporting the Queensland Ambulance Service through a \$1 billion budget investment and we have backed local GPs by axing Labor's patient tax. We have grown the workforce by more than 6,000 FTEs this year, including more than 880 first-year doctors, one of our largest intakes ever. In addition, we have worked with our union partners to secure pay rises for more than 116,000 staff. Five out of seven enterprise bargaining agreements have been reached.

I want to say a particular thankyou to our Queensland Health staff for what you do for Queenslanders day in, day out. I want to particularly acknowledge this year, through Cyclone Alfred, the North Queensland floods and the Western Queensland floods, the very many of our health workforce who went over and above requirements. They stayed overnight in hospitals to make sure their communities were never without support. We have also delivered a statewide health workforce gap analysis.

We are doing the heavy lifting to deliver health services where and when Queenslanders need them; however, our efforts and the efforts of our dedicated Queensland Health staff are hindered by the Commonwealth government dropping the ball in their areas of responsibility: primary care, aged care and NDIS. I would like to update the House on the issue of the Commonwealth government's stranded Australians who are in our hospitals. Today I am announcing updated data that exposes the current state of stranded Australians in Queensland's hospitals. Statewide data collected in November reveals that the total number of patients stranded in Queensland hospitals has risen by 12 per cent since August alone. The latest data indicates that we have 1,259 stranded Australians in our hospitals, up from 1,126 in August. That is another 133 Queenslanders who are unable to access aged care and disability supports from the Albanese Labor government.

Last night we received an updated offer from the Commonwealth. That offer is underwhelming and does not meet the requirements of Queensland when it comes to stranded Australians, health funding growth and disability reform. Queenslanders who might have been expecting a Christmas gift from their federal government have instead heard from the grinch.

Tomorrow we are hosting health ministers from across the country in Brisbane. I will be calling for the federal minister and the federal government to step up and take a stand for Queenslanders waiting for aged-care and NDIS packages, and I will be fighting for a fair share for Queensland. With our record \$33.1 billion health budget here in Queensland we are a government delivering for Queensland, and we will not go back to Labor's decade of decline.