



Speech By
Hon. Tim Nicholls

MEMBER FOR CLAYFIELD

Record of Proceedings, 10 February 2026

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Queensland Health Reporting Obligations, Ministerial Directive

 **Hon. TJ NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (10.07 am): Mr Speaker, at the beginning of my contribution let me associate myself with the Premier's earlier remarks on the motion and your earlier remarks to the House today in relation to the Bondi tragedy. My daughter was, in fact, in Bondi that evening when shots rang out and sent me a message. She was actually there and could observe what was going on, so these events affect us all in different ways.

The Crisafulli government is committed to making Queenslanders safer, and this is not a challenge for the Queensland Police Service to address alone, as the minister has indicated. Finding ways to prevent the harm wrought on victims, their families and the community requires a coordinated, whole-of-government response, and that is what the Crisafulli government is delivering for Queensland. All relevant agencies must play their part and that is why we are stepping up to the mark and are working together to deliver that outcome.

Queensland Health already supports the Queensland Police Service by providing information that assists in robust and informed weapons licensing decisions. Under the Weapons Act 1990, professional carers—and that includes doctors, nurses and psychiatrists—are empowered to proactively notify police where they believe a patient is unsuitable to possess a firearm due to their physical or mental health or because they pose a risk to themselves or others.

In 2025 Queensland Health made more than 550 disclosures, with two-thirds of these directly relevant to weapons licensing applications. Today I can announce that Queensland Health will be strengthening this reporting requirement. In the coming weeks I intend to take the extraordinary measure of issuing a ministerial directive that will apply to all professional carers within our hospital and health services. This will be the third time a minister has issued a ministerial directive under the Hospital and Health Boards Act 2011.

This directive is proposed to apply when a professional carer, after having undertaken a risk assessment and if having formed the view that a person is a higher risk to commit violence with a weapon, must refer the matter to the Queensland Police Service under section 151 of the Weapons Act. Applicants already have obligations to disclose relevant mental health considerations, as the minister has indicated this morning, and this ministerial directive will be in addition to what is amongst the strongest checks in the nation. If a clinician forms the view that a patient is of a higher risk of committing violence with a weapon, then it will in effect be mandatory for that clinician to report it to the Queensland Police Service.

I have consulted with Queensland Health, including with the Chief Psychiatrist and the executive director of the Mental Health Alcohol and Other Drugs Branch, and they advise that this is appropriate, feasible and deliverable. Before issuing the directive, as required I will be consulting with experts, including the specialist colleges, and also considering human rights. Queensland Health will continue to support whatever actions are deemed necessary to make Queensland safer.