

## Question on Notice

No. 966

Asked on 22 August 2024

**MR J LISTER** ASKED MINISTER FOR HEALTH, MENTAL HEALTH AND AMBULANCE SERVICES AND MINISTER FOR WOMEN (HON S FENTIMAN)—

### QUESTION

With reference to answer to Question on Notice No. 1481 of 2023 and the 'Health Funding Uplift' measure described on page 123 of 2024-25 Budget Paper 4—

Will the Minister advise for each financial year from 2022-23 to 2027-28 (reported separately by financial year) (a) a description of each of the programs funded through the uplift, (b) the value of funding for each of the programs described above and (c) the value of any uncommitted monies?

### ANSWER

The Miles Labor Government is doing what matters for Queenslanders by delivering a record \$28.9 billion investment in the health system in 2024-25. The budget provided a record investment in the health system with growth of 10.6 per cent in operating funding in 2024–25, well above the historical average of 6.9 per cent.

To ensure patients get treated at the right place, at the right time, and to meet the growth in demand for health services, the budget provided an uplift to Queensland Health's operating budget of \$4.393 billion over the next 4 years.

Our investments are targeted at boosting health system performance by tackling demand and cost pressures, as well as ensuring all Queenslanders can access world-class care closer to home, no matter where they live.

For instance:

- The *Putting Patients First* plan is a \$1.14 billion investment focused on:
  - Keeping Queenslanders out of hospital and providing alternatives to emergency departments.
  - Building a modern workforce.
  - New ways of delivering care.
  - More beds for a growing population.
  - More care closer to home.
- Our \$457 million investment into mental health, alcohol and other drugs as a part of the Better Care Together funding commitments is delivering:
  - \$320.7 million to strengthen mental health care and facilities.
  - \$61.6 million to respond to mental health crisis and suicidality.
  - \$31.3 million to promote mental health and wellbeing activities.
  - \$43.6 million to expand mental health, alcohol and other drug initiatives.

The health funding uplift focuses on improving the flow of patients through hospitals and more timely access to care, including by improving ambulance responsiveness, addressing pressures on emergency departments, reducing waiting times for surgery and specialist clinics, as well as boosting First Nations health, women's health care and the health workforce.

The below list provides descriptions of the initiatives funded through the Health Funding Uplift over the period 2024-25 to 2027-28 and the allocated funding. Queensland Health will determine the allocation of this funding across the four financial years in a way which best supports effective implementation. Funding may be reallocated between years based on expenditure requirements.

In addition, funding has been fully allocated across the health portfolio, as such there is no uncommitted funding.

Not all programs are funded exclusively through the Health Funding Uplift. There are contributions made from sources outside of the uplift funding, such as operational growth funding which is provided through the annual budget cycle.

Programs funded through the Health Funding Uplift include:

- First Nations First, \$324.7 million from 2024-25 to 2027-28, to accelerate efforts to address inequity in health and wellbeing outcomes for First Nations Queenslanders, by putting First Nations First and putting the Queensland Government back on track to Close the Gap by 2031.
- Queensland Health Workforce, \$438.3 million from 2024-25 to 2027-28, to support and retain the current workforce; including funding to implement a new electronic workforce rostering system as well as to continue the Workforce Attraction Incentive Scheme; school-based traineeship programs; and supporting, the fee-free Free Diploma of Nursing TAFE course. Additionally, this funding will support Queensland Government's new Reproductive Leave policy.
- Queensland Ambulance Service, \$265.9 million from 2024-25 to 2027-28, funding for the Queensland Ambulance Service to respond to the growing and changing demand for pre-hospital healthcare service and maintain activity growth and performance.
- Women and Girls' Health Strategy, \$247.9 million from 2023-24 to 2027-28, for the Women and Girls' Health Strategy 2032 aimed at improving women's experience of the healthcare system and to address gender-based health inequity. This includes mental health and wellbeing, chronic health conditions such as endometriosis and pelvic pain, maternity care for mums and bubs, and sexual and reproductive health.
- Putting Queensland Kids First, \$247.4 million from 2024-25 to 2027-28, forms part of the government's \$502 million Putting Queensland Kids First Plan to support children from their earliest years of life and directs resources, services and supports to give every Queensland child and family the best possible opportunities for a great life.

- Aeromedical Contracts, \$142.2 million from 2024-25 to 2027-28, to further support Queensland's aeromedical providers to deliver specialist retrieval doctors and emergency helicopter services.
- Better Cancer Care, \$20.0 million from 2024-25 to 2027-28, to deliver better cancer care services to Queenslanders, closer to home.
- Free Vaccinations for Queenslanders, \$135.9 million from 2024-25 to 2027-28, this includes \$95.9 million over 4 years to deliver free Meningococcal B and RSV vaccines for eligible infants, children and adolescents. Additional funding of \$40 million in 2024-25 is being met internally by Queensland Health to continue free influenza vaccination for all Queenslanders.
- Queensland Community Pharmacy Scope of Practice Pilot, \$13.0 million from 2024-25 to 2027-28, to expand and implement a statewide trial of community pharmacists working to their full scope. The Pharmacy Scope of Practice Pilot provides a nation-first opportunity to optimise the scope of practice for pharmacists to increase access to high quality, integrated and cost-effective primary healthcare and lessen the impact of workforce shortages and distribution problems across Queensland communities.
- Hospital Discharge Initiatives, \$27.8 million from 2024-25 to 2027-28, to enhance patient flow through the expansion of the Long Stay Rapid Response program and Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal Bedside Hearing Program.
- Voluntary Assisted Dying, \$18.0 million from 2024-25 to 2027-28, to administer the program.
- Queensland Health Cyber Security Program, \$13.6 million from 2024-25 to 2027-28, to ensure security capabilities and technologies keep pace with digitising healthcare security needs.
- Health Pathways Statewide License, \$ 8.8 million from 2024-25 to 2027-28, to maintain the Health Pathways statewide license.
- Specialist Palliative Care in Aged Care, \$12.8 million from 2024-25 to 2027-28, to continue the initiative and improve end-of-life care for people in residential aged care. Additional funding of \$4.2 million is being met by the Federal Government from 2024-25.
- Sexual Assault Response, \$56.0 million from 2024-25 to 2027-28, to establish a new statewide forensic examination model of care.
- Assisted Reproductive Technology Regulation, \$6.4 million from 2024-25 to 2027-28, to go towards Assisted Reproductive Technology Regulation.