



## MEDIA STATEMENT



**Brittany Lauga** MP B Urb Dev (Urb&Reg Plan)(Hons), C.Dec

MEMBER FOR KEPPEL AND ASSISTANT MINISTER FOR EDUCATION

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# New doctors join CQ frontline medical fight

Nearly 40 new junior doctors will join the health frontline in Central Queensland hospitals as part of the latest intake of medical professionals.

The Member for Keppel and strong advocate for health professionals in the region, Brittany Lauga, said the 37 medical interns would join Queensland Health colleagues at hospitals and health centres in Rockhampton, Capricorn Coast, Gladstone, Emerald and Theodore.

She and the Member for Rockhampton Barry O'Rourke met some of the interns today at the Rockhampton Hospital.

"Later in the year three additional interns will start at the Central Queensland Health and Hospital Service," said Ms Lauga.

"Interns will do rotations across Rockhampton, Gladstone and Capricorn Coast Hospitals, as well as general practice rotations at Emerald Medical Group and Theodore Medical Group.

"Hospital rotations cover several specialities including surgery, general medicine (including renal and cardiac), emergency, paediatrics, obstetrics and gynaecology, mental health and orthopaedics."

Ms Lauga, the Assistant Education Minister, said it's because of the actions of doctors and nurses in Queensland – "as a part of our ongoing strong public health response—that we have been able to get on with Queensland's plan for economic recovery".

"But we're not done yet. I'm proud of Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk and Labor's ongoing commitment to investing in healthcare.

"In 5 years we have worked hard on improving nurse to patient ratios in hospitals and public aged care.

### Delivering for you in Keppel

“We’ve done this by hiring 7,358 more nurses, 2,450 more doctors, 2,031 more health practitioners and 812 more paramedics,” said Ms Lauga.

She said these newest junior Rockhampton doctors are part of a 776-strong statewide intake.

Health Minister Yvette D’Ath said “Queensland Health will welcome 776 junior doctors as they step into our hospital corridors around the state this month,”.

“Across Queensland, medical interns and graduate nurses will launch the next stage of their careers in 44 of our public hospitals in 2021.

“These medical interns and graduate nurses have worked extremely hard to get to this stage of their career and I congratulate them on their achievement.

“I’m especially grateful they are joining Queensland’s health system during a global pandemic, where they will no doubt face extra challenges they may not have anticipated when they commenced their study.

“Queensland’s doctors and nurses have kept us safe during COVID and these new health workers will help that work continue.”

Minister D’Ath said the Palaszczuk Government would deliver 9,475 extra doctors, nurses paramedics and other health workers over the next four years.

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