

Queensland Parliament Hansard Green


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SUBJECT: Central Queensland, Health Services

MEMBER: Mrs LAUGA

Central Queensland, Health Services

 **Mrs LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (2.15 pm): The Palaszczuk government is delivering on our commitment to restore front-line services. In the past few weeks I have had the pleasure to welcome an influx of highly skilled emergency services and health personnel to bolster our Central Queensland front line. The appointment of new doctors, nurses, midwives and paramedics continues the Palaszczuk government's drive to ensure Queenslanders have access to the best services possible.

In Central Queensland residents in need of pre hospital emergency care will be better serviced due to 10 new Queensland Ambulance Service front-line staff in the region. The Emu Park Ambulance Station is one station which benefited, with three new advanced care paramedics joining the station. I was pleased to meet the new paramedics at the station last week. These additional ambulance staff will mean an improvement in response times and will result in improved officer safety through the removal of single-officer response situations. The Gracemere Ambulance Station also received a major boost to its paramedic numbers with the seven additional officers promoting the station from a category 4 to category 5 station.

I would like to thank the Premier, Annastacia Palaszczuk, and the health minister, Steven Miles, for providing the QAS with a record operating expenditure budget of \$800.3 million in the 2018-19 financial year so that these extra staff could be deployed. We also welcomed another intake of new junior doctors to the hospital and health services in the Central Queensland region as part of a massive graduation of 780 across the state. Putting boots on the ground in our local hospitals is critical for ensuring the future health of our local communities.

The size of this round of new junior doctors reflects the Palaszczuk government's commitment to rebuilding Queensland's health system. I congratulate and welcome all of our new doctors, in particular Dr Clay Renwick, who will work out of the Capricorn Coast Hospital. It was a pleasure to meet Dr Renwick recently. He told me how pleased he was to be posted at such a beautiful location—something which I have to agree with him on.

The Palaszczuk government has increased the number of nurses and midwives by 137 since coming to government in 2015. Just two weeks ago my colleague the member for Rockhampton and I welcomed 57 new nurses and midwives who will be posted across Central Queensland as part of the Palaszczuk government's commitment to hiring 100 new nurses and midwives across Queensland. There will be two of these midwives in Emerald, two in Gladstone, three in Rockhampton and three in Biloela, and they will be based at clinics and hospitals across the region. In total, 42 of the 100 extra midwives will be employed in rural and regional Queensland. We are doing what we said we would do. Twice now we have asked the people of Queensland what they want, and they have told us and we have listened, and we are continuing to deliver.