Building Better Hospitals
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Message from the Premier

Labor governments have proudly invested almost $10 billion in our public hospital system over the past two decades. Our record serves to distinguish Labor from an LNP government which cut funding, sacked doctors and nurses and ignored ageing infrastructure.

Meeting the health needs of our vastly-dispersed population is challenging. But we are determined to continue our investment in contemporary health facilities and equipment in all corners of our vast state.

For Labor, delivering a world-class health care system is a responsibility we have always taken very seriously. In government, we have ensured our hospitals have state-of-the-art technology and proper staffing levels. Where we have employed doctors, nurses and other health staff, the Newman-Nicholls Government sacked them. We are determined to ensure that all Queenslanders, wherever they live, can access the health services they need.
A re-elected Palaszczuk Government will invest $679 million under its south east Queensland - Planning for Growth program for the major refurbishment of the:

- Logan hospital (including $12.6 million over the next three years for the Logan maternity ward)
- Caboolture hospital
- Ipswich hospital improvement stage one.

In regional Queensland, we will continue our program to expand and refurbish hospitals and health facilities through the Enhancing Regional Hospitals Program, Advancing Queensland Health Infrastructure and Priority Capital Works Program.

These projects will improve services and create local jobs. Projects include new or substantial refurbishments at Atherton, Blackall, Cairns, Kingaroy and Nambour.

In partnership with the Cancer Council Queensland we will refurbish the accommodation lodges for regional cancer patients in Townsville and Herston Brisbane.

A re-elected Palaszczuk Government will finalise business cases for refurbished or new hospitals in Bundaberg and Toowoomba.
When the Palaszczuk Government was elected in 2015, we were faced with a health system in crisis. Budget cuts were imposed by then Prime Minister, Tony Abbott and the Newman-Nicholls Government sacked 14,000 public sector employees. These two moves saw a reduction in services in both hospitals and in the community. Many of these services were prepared for outsourcing and privatisation.

The Newman-Nicholls Government promised to “restore frontline services” and said that public employees “had nothing to fear”. This was clearly untrue.

As Treasurer, Tim Nicholls was the driving force behind their cut, sack and sell agenda. 4,400 health jobs were slashed, including nearly 1,400 nursing, 700 allied health positions and 50 doctors, not to mention thousands of temporary workers who were shown the door.

Tim Nicholls’ cuts were compounded by the Abbott and Turnbull Government budgets that ripped $10 billion out of the Queensland health system when they abandoned the National Health Reform Agreement.

The LNP Government in Canberra also slashed funding by 84 per cent to agreements with Queensland on aged care, dental and mental health.

Rather than continue the carefully-planned expansion and refurbishment of health infrastructure, the Newman-Nicholls Government delayed new developments, while rushing the opening of new facilities like the Lady Cilento Children’s Hospital.

The Newman-Nicholls Government told the people of Kingaroy that the only way to see their hospital redeveloped was to sell the Stanwell Power Station. Labor is delivering new hospitals in Kingaroy, Blackall, Roma and substantial upgrades throughout the state - without selling assets.

The Newman-Nicholls Government closed facilities in Wynnum-Manly and the LNP cut pathology services in Maryborough. It has been the Palaszczuk Government that has built replacement facilities and services.

The Newman-Nicholls Government did nothing to prepare for new health infrastructure at Roma, Sarina and in the Torres Strait. It was left to the Palaszczuk Government to plan and build these and other new and refurbished facilities in our regions.

Their record stands in stark contrast to the Palaszczuk Government’s investment of close to $1 billion towards improving vital health infrastructure in every corner of the state.
The Palaszczuk Government’s Record

We successfully and safely commissioned Australia’s newest public tertiary hospital, the $1.87 billion Sunshine Coast University Hospital.

We have delivered a replacement health facility at Wynnum – the new $13.6 million Wynnum-Manly Community Health Centre – and funded a replacement adolescent mental health facility following the LNP’s reckless closure of the Barrett Adolescent mental health facility.

This new facility is being built at The Prince Charles Hospital and is part of a $68.2 million investment that includes two new adolescent Step-Up Step-Down facilities in greater Brisbane and refurbishment of two day program spaces at Logan and on the Gold Coast.

Our 2015-16 budget included funding for a new hospital in Roma and substantial improvements to the Hervey Bay and Gladstone Emergency Departments and refurbishing the Caloundra Hospital under the $180 million Enhancing Regional Hospitals Program.

In 2016-17, significant hospital redevelopments were funded through the $230 million Advancing Queensland Health Infrastructure Program to support upgrades to the Nambour General Hospital, the Thursday Island Hospital, the Atherton Hospital, the development of a new health precinct for the South Cairns growth-corridor, and expanded parking-capacity at Logan and Caboolture hospitals.

In the 2017-18 budget, we made a $112 million infrastructure down-payment on three hospitals in the south east Queensland growth
corridor – Caboolture, Logan and Ipswich – and an immediate $19.6 million investment in an expanded emergency department at the Caboolture Hospital.

The 2017-18 budget also included funding for essential upgrades to health facilities, including:

- a substantial redevelopment of hospitals at Kingaroy ($62m), Blackall ($17.9m) and Sarina ($16.5m)
- the relocation of a Breast Screen Clinic at Townsville Hospital ($1.6m)
- the refurbishment of the outpatient and emergency departments at Maryborough Hospital ($10m)
- the replacement of the Primary Health Care Centre on Mer Island ($7m).

Palaszczuk Government budgets have also included funding for the following upgrades or new facilities:

- Aurukun - $6.65 million replacement Home and Community Care building
- Aramac - $3.95 million replacement of the Primary Healthcare Centre
- Alpha - $17.5 million new hospital and co-located emergency services project
- Blackall - $17.9 million hospital redevelopment
- Bouli - $2 million community hospital refurbishment
- Bundaberg - $5.3 million Adult Step-Up Step-Down mental health facility
- Cairns - $70 million mental health unit
- Cloncurry - $900,000 Alan Ticehurst Building refurbishment
- Dimbulah - $4.5 million replacement primary health clinic
- Gladstone - $5.2 million Adult Step-Up Step-Down mental health facility
- Julia Creek - $6.9 million McKinlay multi-purpose health service
- Kowanyama - $3.4 million staff accommodation project
- Mackay - $5.4 million Adult Step-Up Step-Down mental health facility
- Mareeba - $1.5 million staff accommodation project
- Palm Island - $16.5 million primary health care clinic
- Townsville - $10.7 million hospital clinical services redevelopment.

Labor has also recognised that the cost and availability of parking add to the stress of accessing hospital services.

Earlier this year, the Palaszczuk Government invested $7.5 million to make more concessional parking available at the 12 Queensland hospitals where paid parking fees apply. This means up to 100,000 additional concessional car parking occasions are now available for eligible patients and their families.

We have also developed a statewide framework for hospital carparks and a Public Hospital Car Parking Action Plan that puts community and staff needs for safe access ahead of income generation through outsourcing and privatisation.

The Palaszczuk Government has commenced construction of a new $25.5 million multi-storey Rockhampton hospital car park and is delivering new ground level parking at Logan and Caboolture hospitals.

We are working on a safe and affordable multi-storey carpark for staff, patients and visitors to the Redcliffe hospital with construction expected to commence mid-2018.

Labor recognises that parking at the Lady Cilento Children’s Hospital is a particular concern. We have therefore commissioned a preliminary evaluation into options to improve access and affordability of parking. It is a difficult site and there are no easy options. The Palaszczuk Government will leave no stone unturned on behalf of the community in finding a solution.
In the 2017-18 health budget the Palaszczuk Government committed $131.8 million over four years as an initial investment to enhance public hospital capacity and services in the south east Queensland growth-corridor.

This investment included the expansion of the emergency department at Caboolture Hospital and detailed planning and preparatory works for proposed redevelopments at the Logan, Caboolture and Ipswich hospitals.

A re-elected Palaszczuk Government will undertake major refurbishments and expansion of these three hospitals in the growth-corridor to the north, south and west of Brisbane at an estimated total cost of $679 million.

Over the next five years we will redevelop the:

- Logan hospital (expanding bed capacity from 448 to up to 640)
- Caboolture hospital (expanding bed capacity from 260 to 390)
- Ipswich hospital expansion stage 1.
The Logan hospital redevelopment will prioritise maternity services to meet rapidly-increased demand, addressing problems associated with patients sharing bathrooms and a lack of dedicated space for family visits.

A new Logan maternity ward costing $12.6 million over three years will provide an additional six inpatient beds, five additional delivery rooms and a further 10-14 cots.

The Ipswich hospital expansion stage 1 will deliver:

- new mental health facilities for adults and seniors
- an MRI suite to grow clinical capability
- a refurbished Ipswich City Council building to provide an integrated community health care centre and outpatients facility
- land acquisition for future expansion.

“Labor is delivering new hospitals in Roma, Kingaroy & Blackall without selling assets”

Examining Future Hospital Needs

Bundaberg Hospital operates 235 overnight beds and treatment spaces within the Wide Bay Hospital and Health Service. These beds serve a catchment population of 216,000, expected to grow to 256,517 by 2026.

While this population growth is lower than the state average, a number of challenges unique to Wide Bay mean that the increase in demand for services will outstrip existing capacity at the local hospital.

The region’s status as a retirement destination means that residents aged 65 already represent 22 per cent of the population (14 per cent statewide). This will increase to 31 per cent by 2026, leading to higher rates of health service utilisation.

Forecasts indicate a need for between 80 and 140 new beds and treatment spaces in Bundaberg. However, there is no room for expansion on the existing site.
The Palaszczuk Government will commit $3 million over two years for comprehensive planning and business case development to model future demand services that meet the needs of a growing and ageing population in Wide Bay Burnett.

The business case will examine:

- current and future health service needs
- staffing requirements within the Wide Bay and Burnett region
- the hospital’s relationship with local private health care providers
- research and training partners.

Analysis has already commenced in support of a new or redeveloped Toowoomba Hospital. Funding was made available in the 2017-18 budget and a re-elected Palaszczuk Government will finalise the business planning process.

Community-Owned Health Infrastructure

Cancer Council Queensland (CCQ) currently owns and operates six regional accommodation lodges statewide accommodating regional cancer patients at no cost. The Toowoomba, Townsville and Herston CCQ lodges have been running for 20 and 30 years respectively. Major refurbishments are now urgently required.

A re-elected Palaszczuk Government will provide $5 million over two years to refurbish both facilities, improving amenities for patients and carers.
Artists impression of Logan Hospital Expansion