



Premier of Queensland

For reply please quote: *PU/LM – TF/23/18318 – DOC/23/258215*

06 FEB 2024

The Honourable Shannon Fentiman MP
Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance Services and
Minister for Women
health@ministerial.qld.gov.au

1 William Street Brisbane
PO Box 15185 City East
Queensland 4002 Australia
Telephone +61 7 3719 7000
Email ThePremier@premiers.qld.gov.au
Website www.thepremier.qld.gov.au

Dear Minister

Together we have a responsibility each and every day to make Queensland an even better place, to create opportunities, tackle challenges, and deliver for hardworking Queenslanders.

Easing cost-of-living pressures, delivering better healthcare and more housing, and keeping our communities safe are core priorities that we are all responsible for driving, regardless of which portfolio we lead. Collectively, we must also focus on safeguarding Queensland's future by lifting our ambition on climate action, while supporting new industries and creating jobs where they are needed most.

This letter outlines a range of delivery priorities in your portfolio, which I know you will work relentlessly towards achieving.

The highest priorities I want you to focus on as Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance Services and Minister for Women are to:

- drive better performance and deliver world-class healthcare for Queenslanders, including new and expanded hospitals
- reduce planned care wait times and drive down ambulance wait times and ramping
- support and grow our health workforce, and ensure our health workers have the resources they need to put patients first
- ensure new mothers have access to appropriate maternity care as close to home as possible
- take an early intervention approach to the health issues which contribute to criminal behaviour and poor life outcomes
- improve mental health responses for Queenslanders
- deliver Satellite Hospitals at Bribie Island and Eight Mile Plains and plan for delivery of future Satellite Hospitals
- continue to support the equal participation and access to opportunities for women and girls in Queensland.

Listening to the voices of Queenslanders and working closely with other ministers will be essential to achieving meaningful outcomes. The priorities set out in the attached portfolio priority statement will also inform chief executive officer performance agreements and shape the functions and activities of departments and agencies.

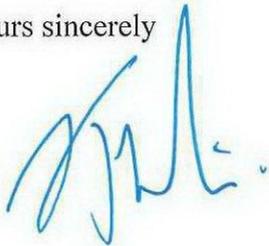
In delivering on these priorities, please ensure you are working with your federal and other Australian state and territory government counterparts to ensure Queensland's interests are proactively represented and the benefits to Queenslanders are maximised. I will meet with you regularly to discuss progress in implementing the actions identified.

At all times, I expect that ministers and assistant ministers will make all decisions and take all actions in the public's interest, without regard to personal, party political or other immaterial considerations.

We cannot achieve our goals for Queensland without the public service, and I expect that ministers and their staff will engage with chief executive officers and departmental staff with the utmost respect and in accordance with *The Queensland Ministerial Handbook, Ministerial Code of Conduct, Code of Conduct Ministerial Staff Members'* and the *Protocols for communication between ministerial staff members and public service employees*. I refer you to *Governing Queensland* for the suite of policy and administrative handbooks, which is available on the Department of the Premier and Cabinet's website at www.premiers.qld.gov.au.

I look forward to continuing to work closely with you to deliver better services and create opportunities for all Queenslanders.

Yours sincerely



**STEVEN MILES MP
PREMIER OF QUEENSLAND**

***Encl**

Portfolio Priorities Statement

Minister: Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance Services and Minister for Women

The Hon Shannon Fentiman MP

Department(s): Queensland Health

Queensland Ambulance Service

Whole-of-Government Priorities

<p>Overarching Direction</p>	<p>All Ministers to work together to deliver the government's priorities for Queensland:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting jobs: Good, secure jobs in more industries to diversify the Queensland economy and build on existing strengths in agriculture, resources and tourism. • Keeping Queenslanders healthy: Ensure all Queenslanders can access world-class healthcare no matter where they live. • Educating for the future: Give our children the best start by investing in our teachers and schools. • Listening to Queenslanders: Bring together business, industry, communities, and unions to work together for Queensland's future. • Backing our frontline services: Deliver world-class frontline services in key areas such as health, education, transport and community safety. • Keeping communities safe: Support police to work with the community to tackle the complex causes of crime and support victims. • Making it for Queensland: Grow manufacturing across traditional and new industries, making new products in new ways and creating new jobs. • Investing in skills: Ensure Queenslanders have the skills they need to find meaningful jobs and set up pathways for the future. • Protecting the environment: Protect and enhance our natural environment and heritage for future generations and achieve a 70 per cent renewable energy target by 2032, 75 per cent emissions reduction by 2035 and net zero emissions by 2050. • Growing our regions: Help Queensland's regions grow by attracting people, talent and investment, and driving sustainable economic prosperity. • Delivering the Big Build: Drive investment in the infrastructure that supports the State's economy and jobs, builds resilience and underpins future prosperity. • Deliver more homes: Provide more social homes and work with all levels of government to increase housing supply across the state. • Providing cost of living relief: Continue to use our energy assets to deliver savings on energy bills, and freeze or reduce costs where we can. • Honouring and embracing our rich and ancient cultural history: Create opportunities for First Nations Queenslanders to thrive in a modern Queensland.
<p>Consultation</p>	<p>All Ministers and their staff to meet regularly with the community and key stakeholders to inform policy development and achieve the best outcomes for all Queenslanders.</p>
<p>Integrity and Accountability</p>	<p>All Ministers and their staff demonstrate transparent, accountable and ethical behaviour and make all decisions and take all actions in the public interest without regard to personal, party political or other immaterial considerations.</p>

Collaboration	All Ministers, supported by their Chief Executive Officers, establish strong working relationships across portfolios to deliver the Government's priorities.
Investing in Our People	All Ministers support their Chief Executive Officers to focus on motivating and increasing the capability of the public sector.

Government Commitments

Election Commitments	All Ministers prioritise the delivery of all election commitments.
-----------------------------	--

Delivery Priorities

Health

Oversee the delivery of the *Queensland Health and Hospitals Plan* including:

- new infrastructure and more beds;
- supporting the health workforce, with a focus on both attraction and retention;
- a focus on mental health; and
- innovative reforms to our health system.

As part of the *Queensland Health and Hospitals Plan*, continue to invest in, build and expand new facilities across Queensland to strengthen Queensland's hospital and health system and deliver better health care for all Queenslanders, including through:

- progressing planning and delivery for hospitals and other health infrastructure for the Health and Hospitals Plan Capacity Expansion Program, including new hospitals in Toowoomba, Coomera and Bundaberg, the Queensland Cancer Centre and expansions at Cairns, Hervey Bay, Ipswich, Logan, Mackay, Redcliffe and Townsville and in Brisbane at the QEII, Princess Alexandra and The Prince Charles Hospitals and lease arrangements for Robina Hospital;
- developing partnerships across the health sector, including with Mater Health Services to deliver a new hospital in Springfield;
- investing in hospital expansions through the Accelerated Infrastructure Delivery Program; and
- the Building Rural and Remote Health Program – Phase 1 and 2.

Progress improvements at the Queensland Spinal Cord Injury Service at the Princess Alexandra Hospital to provide a better quality of care for patients, while a detailed business case for a new state-of-the-art building is completed.

Continue to deliver the COVID-19 health response.

Continue to attract, retain and invest in new frontline staff to deliver a world-class level of public health care.

Drive the delivery of *HEALTHQ32: A vision for Queensland's health system*, in partnership with other health service providers, to focus on health system priorities over the next decade:

- Optimising the delivery of safe, appropriate and timely hospital care
- Strengthening access to care in the community and closer to home
- Improving the health and wellbeing of Queenslanders.

Progress the construction, commissioning and operationalisation of the remaining two of seven new Satellite Hospitals across South East Queensland at Bribie Island and Eight Mile Plains providing residents with better access to health services in more appropriate settings, closer to home.

Work with community stakeholders to develop a model for expanding nurse-to-patient ratios in places experiencing high demand, including operating theatres, emergency departments and maternity wards.

Work with partners in the health system to deliver the \$764 million investment into *Putting Patients First – Further action to tackle ramping and healthcare pressures*. Oversee implementation of a range of initiatives that include keeping Queenslanders out of hospital and providing alternatives to emergency departments, supercharging virtual care, strengthening our Queensland Ambulance Service, investing in more frontline health workers and more beds for our growing population.

Continue to collaborate with the Federal Government to strengthen partnerships with the primary care, aged care and disability services sectors.

Continue to work to ensure all expectant Queensland mothers have access to appropriate maternity care as close to home as possible.

Develop and implement a Queensland Women and Girls' Health Strategy, which will provide a long-term approach to achieving health equity for Queensland women and girls.

Continue to work to ensure the timely provision of planned care through the public health system.

Continue to oversee reforms in Pharmacy model of care and extension in pharmacy scope of practice, including delivering on the Queensland Community Pharmacy Scope of Practice Pilot.

Continue the roll-out of the electronic medical record program to more hospitals across Queensland to ensure delivery of better care for patients and greater efficiency across the health system.

Work with other ministers to oversee implementation of the government response to the Commission of Inquiry into Forensic DNA Testing in Queensland and the Commission of Inquiry into concerns relating to Project 13.

Continue to consider reforms to aged care, in line with the findings of the final report of the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety and Federal Government reforms, in consultation with aged care sector stakeholders, and in line with the roles and responsibilities for aged care.

Work with the Minister for Child Safety, Minister for Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Multicultural Affairs to develop an improved service delivery model for forensic disability services in Queensland.

Support the Minister for Education and Minister for Youth Justice, and the Minister for Police and Community Safety in the implementation of youth justice initiatives to help prevent crime, improve outcomes and enhance community safety, including through early intervention, prevention and rehabilitation responses.

Work across agencies to support the delivery of early interventions to improve outcomes for children, young people and families, and in turn break intergenerational cycles of disadvantage. This will include investing in the first 2000 days in maternity, child health and child development services, and ensuring that these early health preventions and interventions are integrated with other services.

Continue to deliver preventive health strategies including new smoking reforms, including vaping.

Continue delivery of a range of cancer screening programs such as bowel and breast screening alongside social marketing campaigns to reduce smoking and alcohol consumption and to promote healthier lifestyles.

Continue to oversee Health and Wellbeing Queensland, and support delivery of plans to achieve real and measurable improvements in the health and wellbeing of Queenslanders.

Continue to support the implementation and monitoring of the *Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Strategy 2016-26* in conjunction with the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence.

Advance health equity and improve the health and wellbeing of First Nations Queenslanders including through:

- continuing and expanding initiatives under *Making Tracks* and supporting the implementation of local health equity strategies for each Hospital and Health Service in consultation with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health services sector and communities; and
- implementing the *First Nations First Strategy 2032*.

Work with the Minister for Treaty, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Minister for Communities and Minister for the Arts to support implementation of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap including the development of Queensland's Closing the Gap implementation plan in a co-design approach with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander stakeholders and their representatives.

Implement the *Ending Rheumatic Heart Disease: Queensland's First Nations Strategy 2021-24* and action plans that seek to end rheumatic heart disease (RHD) in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

Continue to lead reforms to palliative care including through implementation of the *Palliative and End-of-Life Care Strategy*, employing sufficient staff and supporting practitioners, and delivering public education and advocacy.

	<p>Continue to support the health sector in implementing the voluntary assisted dying scheme, assisting practitioners to deliver this scheme and ensure high quality and safe care.</p> <p>Continue to deliver the \$30 million <i>Solar Panel and Energy Efficiency Program</i>, including solar panels at 50 hospital sites, overseen by the Office of Hospital Sustainability.</p>
Mental Health	<p>Support mental health, alcohol and other drug, and suicide prevention services across Queensland through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • implementing the <i>Better Care Together</i> Plan with a focus on building services, supporting vulnerable groups in our community and strengthening system enablers that support access to care; • planning and delivering priority infrastructure projects to improve mental health facilities in hospital and youth community settings including crisis support units and spaces as well as additional inpatient capacity and community recovery support, and models of care such as mental health co-responders with Queensland Ambulance Service; • developing and implementing the whole-of-government response to the Mental Health Select Committee's Inquiry into opportunities to improve mental health outcomes for Queenslanders; and • continuing to support the Queensland Mental Health Commission in the delivery of whole-of-government mental health, alcohol, other drug and suicide prevention strategies and associated sub-plans, and the implementation of initiatives to address use and harm caused by crystal methamphetamine.
Ambulance Services	<p>Continue to deliver <i>Putting Patients First – Further action to tackle ramping and healthcare pressures</i>.</p> <p>Continue to support the delivery of timely, quality and appropriate, patient focused services in the face of increasing demand, including through continued investment in additional frontline staff.</p> <p>Investigate pathways to better integrate the work of the Queensland Ambulance Service with Hospital and Health Services, and other health and community sector partners.</p> <p>Deliver new and replacement Ambulance Stations across Queensland in line with Government commitments.</p>
Women	<p>Lead implementation of and support ongoing community engagement with the <i>Queensland Women's Strategy 2022–27</i> to strengthen and support the rights of Queensland women and girls, including through a renewed focus on women's economic security.</p> <p>Publish an Annual Queensland Women's statement to report on progress under the <i>Queensland Women's Strategy 2022-27</i>.</p> <p>Support Queensland Government Ministers and agencies to implement women's economic security initiatives and gender responsive budgeting.</p> <p>Oversee delivery of the <i>Investing in Queensland Women</i> grants program, providing one-off grants for events and projects that address the unique issues faced by women and girls.</p> <p>Work with the Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Innovation to implement women's economic development initiatives such as the Female Founders program and the Queensland Women in STEM prize.</p>
National Agreements, National Partnerships & Significant National Reform Projects	<p>Support the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment in relation to negotiation, management and implementation of any intergovernmental funding agreements relevant to your portfolio.</p> <p>Represent Queensland on National Ministerial forums relevant to your portfolio, including the Health Ministers' Meeting.</p> <p>Represent Queensland on the Australia-New Zealand Food Regulation Ministers' Meeting. As Queensland's representative you will also be responsible for consulting with, and representing the views of, the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities.</p>

Work with the Federal Government and other states and territories to develop the next version of the National Health Reform Agreement to ensure a fair share of funding for Queensland.

Proactively engage with your Federal Government counterpart to ensure Queensland is well placed to leverage key opportunities associated with the commitments made by the Federal Government and advocate for a fair share of funding.

Implement initiatives under the National Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Agreement and associated Bilateral Agreement.
