



Hon Yvette D'Ath MP  
Minister for Health and Ambulance Services  
Leader of the House

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Mr Neil Laurie  
Clerk of the Parliament  
Queensland Parliament  
George Street  
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Dear Mr Laurie *Neil*

I write in response to your letter regarding petition number 3557-21, tabled in Parliament on 1 September 2021.

The Palaszczuk Government is committed to delivering more car parks at our hospitals and car parking concessions for eligible patients and carers. I acknowledge that the cost and availability of car parking at public hospitals is a real concern for many patients, carers and their families.

I understand many people would like to park for free, and this continues to be possible at the vast majority of our public hospitals. However, paying a modest amount to use the modern and safe multi-storey parking amenities ensures that Queensland Health can continue to prioritise its budget on the delivery of critical frontline services.

Since 2017, the Palaszczuk Government's preferred approach for development of new hospital car parks is that they are self-sustaining and government owned, with Hospital and Health Services managing car park revenue. Car park tariffs pay for the construction, operations and maintenance at the new car parks, with the focus for tariffs on cost recovery, and not profit making.

New car parks with fair and affordable tariffs have been delivered at Redcliffe and Rockhampton Hospitals and new car parks are also in progress at Caboolture, Logan, Redland and The Prince Charles Hospitals. The typical cost for visitor parking at Rockhampton Hospital is now \$3.00 and is \$7.00 at Redcliffe Hospital.

Even with affordable tariffs, I appreciate some people will need more assistance when they need to park at the hospital. In 2017, Queensland Health implemented the Hospital Car Parking Concession Scheme and over 1.6 million patients and carers had their car parking charges reduced by over 50 per cent.

Under the scheme, administered by each Hospital and Health Service, eligible patients and their carers can receive free or discounted parking and includes those who:

- are experiencing financial hardship (which may include government concession card holders);
- need to attend hospital for an extended period of time;
- are required to attend hospital frequently; or
- have special needs or require assistance.

Information on concessions is available on local hospital websites or on the Queensland Health Concessional Car Parking website: <https://www.health.qld.gov.au/system-governance/health-system/services/concessional-car-parking>.

In addition, Queensland Health will continue to provide access to a range of affordable journey options for our staff, patients and their visitors including multiple drop off points, active transport and cycling amenities, and ensuring our urban locations are well serviced by public transport.

I am confident that these parking arrangements improve on the long-standing practices where parking was often outsourced to private providers. The arrangements deliver appropriate economic and social outcomes while supporting access to health services for our patients, their visitors and families and our staff.

I thank the petitioners for raising these issues and trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely



**YVETTE D'ATH MP**  
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