

2016

## HEALTH HUB BACK IN EUMUNDI BY POPULAR DEMAND

AMA Queensland today congratulated Murrumba MP Steven Miles on his appointment as Health Minister in the re-elected Palaszczuk Government.

AMA Queensland President Dr Bill Boyd said he was confident that Dr Miles experience in the previous State Cabinet as Minister for the Environment and Heritage Protection and Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef would serve him well in his new role.

“Health care is one of the most important areas of public service delivery, affecting each of the 4.8 million Queenslanders who live in this state,” Dr Boyd said.

“Queensland’s health services are good by international standards but there is much urgent work for the next State Government to do.

“AMA Queensland looks forward to working with the Minister on progressing urgent issues, such as improving palliative care, as well as developing new initiatives to improve the way health is delivered in this state.”

Dr Boyd said AMA Queensland would continue to seek a fairer deal for patients and medical professionals in regional areas from the State Government.

“There are just 91 doctors working in remote areas of Queensland and each serves almost twice as many patients as their counterparts in Brisbane,<sup>[1]</sup>” Dr Boyd said.

“And most rural, remote and regional area doctors say it takes six to 12 months to fill new vacancies in their health and hospital services.”

As well as addressing regional health issues, Dr Boyd said AMA Queensland’s *Five Point Plan for Better Health* also called for improved palliative care, better health of doctors, reduced alcohol-fuelled violence and improved the experience of patients.

Dr Boyd congratulated former Queensland Health Minister Cameron Dick on his new role as Minister for State Development and thanked him for working collaboratively with AMA Queensland to improve health policy and delivery over the past three years.

[1] Productivity Commission, *Report on Government Services 2017 (Primary and Community Health)*.