Dear nurses and midwives

I’m writing to you to let you know the Queensland Government has approved the fourth pay rise for nurses and midwives since I became Minister for Health just over two and half years ago.

As a part of our strong plan for your profession, you will receive a 2.2 per cent wage increase from 1 April 2015 on top of the agreed $500 increase to your annual base salary as part of the EBB agreement.

This latest pay increase will mean Queensland Health nurses and midwives will have received total pay rises of around 12 per cent since the change of government in March 2012. This is strong recognition of the value this government places on the frontline profession of nursing and midwifery.

I wrote to you recently to advise the Queensland Government had asked the independent Queensland Industrial Relations Commission (QIRC) to extend the time provided to complete the modernisation of the Nurses and Midwives’ award to the second half of 2015. This was in response to direct concerns from the Queensland Nurses Union (QNU), raised with its members just weeks before:

It is now clear it will not be possible to finalise award modernisation for Queensland Health nurses and midwives within the government’s timeframe of 31 August 2014... The QNU is proceeding with this exercise on the basis that the Queensland Health Nurses & Midwives Award is a critically important industrial instrument and we will not be a party to any attempt to progress this award modernisation process with indecent haste just to meet an artificial deadline. It is important for nurses and midwives that this exercise is done correctly, without any loss of conditions.

The Queensland Government didn’t want this delay, advocated by the QNU, to leave nurses and midwives in limbo about their next pay increase. This is why I have taken this opportunity to write to you directly and to offer you certainty.

I also want to assure you that EB negotiations subsequent to the award modernisation process which concludes after April 2015, will determine any benefits and entitlements beyond 2.2 per cent.

Should you require any further information please visit: www.qld.gov.au/gettingbetter

I would like to once again take this opportunity to congratulate Queensland Health staff for the outstanding results we have recently seen in the latest Patient Satisfaction Survey. I am genuinely proud of you and your colleagues who have achieved such recognition from your patients.
Yours sincerely

Lawrence Springborg
Minister for Health

Please do not reply to this email as this account is not monitored

********************************************************************************************************

This email, including any attachments sent with it, is confidential and for the sole use of the intended recipient(s). This confidentiality is not waived or lost, if you receive it and you are not the intended recipient(s), or if it is transmitted/received in error.

Any unauthorized use, alteration, disclosure, distribution or review of this email is strictly prohibited. The information contained in this email, including any attachment sent with it, may be subject to a statutory duty of confidentiality if it relates to health service matters.

If you are not the intended recipient(s), or if you have received this email in error, you are asked to immediately notify the sender by telephone collect on Australia +61 1800 198 175 or by return email. You should also delete this email, and any copies, from your computer system network and destroy any hard copies produced.

If not an intended recipient of this email, you must not copy, distribute or take any action(s) that relies on it; any form of disclosure, modification, distribution and/or publication of this email is also prohibited.

Although Queensland Health takes all reasonable steps to ensure this email does not contain malicious software, Queensland Health does not accept responsibility for the consequences if any person's computer inadvertently suffers any disruption to services, loss of information, harm or is infected with a virus, other malicious computer programme or code that may occur as a consequence of receiving this email.

Unless stated otherwise, this email represents only the views of the sender and not the views of the Queensland Government.

********************************************************************************************************