



Speech by

MIKE REYNOLDS

MEMBER FOR TOWNSVILLE

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TOWNSVILLE GENERAL HOSPITAL ELECTIVE SURGERY WAITING LIST

Mr REYNOLDS (Townsville—ALP) (10.16 a.m.): Record numbers of Queenslanders are undergoing elective surgery, according to figures released by the State Government. The March quarter Public Hospitals Elective Surgery Waiting List Report reveals that an extra 4,616 Queenslanders underwent elective surgery in the first nine months of this financial year compared with the same period last year.

The Townsville General Hospital has maintained an excellent waiting list record. The Townsville General Hospital showed an improvement in the waiting list for elective surgery compared with the same time in 1998. The Elective Surgery Waiting List Report for 1 April 1999 shows that Townsville Hospital had reduced the proportion of semi-urgent Category 2 patients waiting longer than 90 days for surgery from 18.2% or 109 patients at 1 April 1998 to 5.1% or 25 patients at 1 April 1999. This represents a further decrease since the last Elective Surgery Waiting List Report for 1 January 1999 which showed 42 patients or 9%. This was a very good result considering the increased demand for health services experienced by the hospital this year.

Townsville has consistently performed better than the State average for the last year and I congratulate the hospital staff for the dedication they have shown in support of the elective surgery program. Elective surgery throughput statistics also demonstrate the commitment of Townsville hospital to reducing waiting lists and maintaining shorter waiting times. For the first nine months of this financial year the hospital treated an additional 312 elective surgery patients compared with the same nine months in 1997-98.

I was delighted to read in today's Townsville Bulletin an acknowledgment of this good result at the Townsville General Hospital by the shadow Minister for Health. Indeed, the figures very much speak for themselves.
