



Speech by

Hon. PETER BEATTIE

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

Hansard 7 December 1999

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Comprehensive Cancer Research Centre

Hon. P. D. BEATTIE (Brisbane Central— ALP) (Premier) (9.35 a.m.), by leave: Later today I will be unveiling the foundation stone for the new Comprehensive Cancer Research Centre at the Queensland Institute of Medical Research. At the same time, I will also be officially launching the building program for the new centre. The institute has a reputation as one of Australia's best medical research facilities and an international reputation for cancer research. The Health Minister, who will be accompanying me to both of those events, supports the Government's contribution to that centre. Professor Lawrie Powell, who is the institute director, had the idea to extend the Queensland Institute of Medical Research to include a larger cancer research institute modelled on comprehensive cancer research centres in the United States. The new centre will have laboratories for epidemiology—or the study of diseases in our community—research into identifying the causes of cancer and applying clinical research to patient care. It will also allow the institute to continue research into infectious diseases like malaria and giardia and to do research into cancers like melanoma and breast cancer.

The \$55m expansion of the Queensland Institute of Medical Research will be in two phases. The initial building of 10 storeys will have five laboratory floors including a good laboratory practice floor, a clinical trial unit and an epidemiology floor. Work on phase 1 begins next month and the building should be up and running by July 2001. Phase 2 is the refurbishment of the Queensland Radium Institute. This will be finished in two years' time. There is no doubt that this institute is held in very high esteem. That is evident from the many generous donations to establish the new centre. The Leukemia Foundation donated \$5m. \$10m came from the institute's trust and another \$20m from anonymous private donations. The Queensland Government has contributed \$20m and use of the site, valued at \$8.75m.

We see this new centre as the focal point for cancer research with Queensland Health, other Brisbane hospitals and our universities. And it is a crucial part of our plan to make Queensland the biotechnology capital of the Asia-Pacific region. My Government has developed a 10-year plan to push that goal and that involves the establishment of major biotechnology research centres. The \$100m Institute for Molecular Bioscience at the University of Queensland will be home to 700 world-class scientists. The State Government will provide \$77.5m over the next 10 years to ensure the institute attracts key individuals and chief investigators and to assist it to form alliances with local and international industries. We are committed to this \$55m extension to the Queensland Institute for Medical Research for the comprehensive cancer centre. We are also committed to a \$10m centre for biomedical research and drug discovery and incubation facilities at Griffith University. \$30m will be spent to expand the Queensland Health Scientific Services laboratories, incorporating the National Research Centre in Environmental Toxicology. All this is an investment in the State's future prosperity—a prosperity in which biotechnology figures prominently.
