



Speech by

**Mr T. SULLIVAN**

**MEMBER FOR CHERMSIDE**

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Hansard 14 April 1999

### **HOLY SPIRIT NORTHSIDE AND PRINCE CHARLES HOSPITAL**

**Mr SULLIVAN** (Chermside—ALP) (11.12 p.m.): Last Thursday in my electorate of Chermside, an event occurred which will have long-term benefits for thousands of residents in Brisbane's northern suburbs. In a simple but significant ceremony, the Queensland Health Minister, Wendy Edmond, together with Sister Patricia Naughton, Sister Jennifer Fahey and Dr Stuart Spring, signed an agreement that will see the co-location of the Holy Spirit Northside Private Hospital in the grounds of the Prince Charles Hospital at Chermside. The agreement provides for the construction and operation of a 170-bed private hospital offering general and specialist private hospital services.

This agreement is the culmination of an enormous effort by the consortium of the Servants of the Mission Congregation of the Holy Spirit and the Sisters of Charity, and Queensland Health's Metropolitan Hospitals Co-location Project. The Holy Spirit Northside Private Hospital will complement the Prince Charles Hospital and enhance the health care services already available to the northern suburbs. The hospital will offer private health services in a full range of general and specialist medical and surgical services. This new facility will ensure that north side residents will have access to the best private health services, as well as one of Australia's finest cardiac hospitals, on the one convenient location.

A co-located hospital offers many benefits, including: a broader range of services available to the public; increased patient volumes; increased clinical services and improved clinical service infrastructure; expansion of the clinical research base with greater teaching opportunities; and improved staff recruitment, retention and employment opportunities due to better facilities and co-location of private and public practices.

Construction is expected to cost approximately \$70m and should create about 250 construction jobs. Once completed, about 500 permanent full-time and part-time jobs will be created to run the hospital.

This co-location agreement is for a period of up to 40 years, with the Holy Spirit Northside Private Hospital leasing and paying rent to Queensland Health for use of the public hospital grounds. This rent payment will in turn support ongoing research, services, joint ventures and equipment purchases for the Prince Charles Hospital.

By complementing existing public hospital services, the co-located private hospital will offer a wider range of services for households in Brisbane's northern suburbs. When they first heard of the new hospital, some of my constituents asked if this co-location would adversely affect the public hospital services currently being provided by the world-standard Prince Charles Hospital. I admit that I had the same reservations.

However, over the months of discussions with the Health Minister and Holy Spirit executives, I was convinced of two things: that public hospital patients would not be disadvantaged and that patients choosing private hospital services would have greater choice. The co-location agreement protects public hospital patients.

I would like to quote from the speech delivered by Sister Patricia Naughton at the signing ceremony. She said—

"It is with a genuine sense of pleasure that I take part in this signing ceremony of the Co-location agreement between Queensland Health and the Holy Spirit Hospital/Sisters of Charity Health Service Consortium.

The project has been a long time in the planning; about 18 months; and will be at least the same time again before the hospital is built and the first patients admitted. But already, the signing today of this Agreement is a major achievement in its own right and a strong statement about the future of Catholic health care in Brisbane.

As I know you all appreciate, health care is an important ministry of the Christian Churches. All of the major acute private hospitals in Brisbane—the Holy Spirit, the Mater, Wesley, St Andrews— were founded on gospel values and continue as a witness to the healing ministry of Christ.

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The significance of today is that two Catholic congregations have joined together in a 50/50 partnership to give new life to Catholic health care on the northern side of Brisbane.

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And the partnership is not just between two religious congregations, it is also with the Queensland Government and Health Department, the Prince Charles Hospital staff and management, and of course the very people we are here to serve, the community of the northern suburbs of Brisbane.

And of course, it is not just the Catholic community that we serve. As we have done at the Holy Spirit Hospital on Wickham Terrace for the past 50 years; And as the Sisters of Charity have done in their health care facilities for twice that length of time; we are here to serve all of the community, regardless of religious beliefs."

Sister Patricia concluded by saying—

"Through you Minister, we thank the Government for this opportunity. And we thank your officers who have worked long and hard to reach this point. We also thank the staff and management of the Prince Charles Hospital for their support to date, and we look forward to working with them in the future to provide high quality public and private health services to the community of northern Brisbane."

I would like to thank Holy Spirit Hospital management, particularly Mr Peter Read, for having trust and confidence in the local community. They held meetings with Prince Charles Hospital management and staff, and they held public meetings so that local residents could be informed of the proposed changes. I attended two meetings at the Chermside Bowls Clubs and was impressed at the full and frank presentation to local residents.

I also thank Mr Phil Sheedy and the staff at the Prince Charles Hospital, together with other Queensland Health staff, for their many months of hard work with negotiations. Their efforts have resulted in a great outcome. The co-location agreement is a win for Queensland Health, a win for the Prince Charles Hospital and a big win for the local residents.

I would like to table a brochure from the Holy Spirit Northside which was presented to the local community at the public consultation, a press release that came out about that hospital, a letter from the communications consultant of the Holy Spirit Hospital, and a brochure from the Holy Spirit Hospital to let the people see how open and frank the hospital was with the local community. This has been a great day for Queensland Health and for the north side community. As the Minister said, this is the first of the big ones. It is the first of the big co-locations and it has proved so far to be a great success and will continue to be so.

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