



Speech by
Mr TERRY SULLIVAN
MEMBER FOR CHERMSIDE

Hansard 25 August 1999

PRINCE CHARLES HOSPITAL

Mr SULLIVAN (ChermSIDE—ALP) (11.23 p.m.): I wish to speak about the Prince Charles Hospital from two perspectives: that of a member of Parliament and as a family member of a patient. On Tuesday 13 July, the official opening of the main acute building of the Prince Charles Hospital was held. Over 400 invited guests attended the official opening, including members of the community and organisations that have played a significant role in the services provided by the Prince Charles Hospital, past and present staff, the redevelopment team including project managers, construction managers, architects and others who contributed to the design and construction of the facility, and Government and industry representatives.

Community members present included people from the ChermSIDE Bowls Club, the ChermSIDE & Districts Historical Society, the Neighbours of Huxtable Park, the Kedron/Wavell RSL, the Kedron Wavell Services Club, Neighbourhood Watch groups, Charlie's Angels, which is the hospital support group, nurses, doctors, domestic and support staff, allied health workers, business people, residents and QAS and QFRA members. It was a great celebration.

Others to attend the opening ceremony included: Dr Helen Carkeek, the Director of the Atkinson Capital Insight Project; Dr Rob Stable, the Director-General of Queensland Health; Ms Cheryl Burns, the Executive Director of Nursing; Dr Jean Collie, the Executive Director of Medical Services; Mr John Wylie, the Director of Corporate Services; Dr Greg Stafford, the Chair of the Medical Staff Association; Mrs Joyce Turner, the Chair of the Combined Staff Association; and Mr Mike Ahern, the former Premier who is Chair of the Prince Charles Hospital Foundation.

The ceremony started with Howie Gardener, a wardsperson, leading us in the national anthem. Phil Sheedy, the District Manager, welcomed everybody and spoke about the hospital and its role in the district. I had a chance to welcome the local residents. Wendy Edmond then invited the Premier to perform the official ceremony. A vote of thanks was given by Joyce Turner and the closing remarks were made by Mr Ted Howard, the Chair of the District Health Council. The blessing of the new hospital was conducted by Father Peter Lockyer, Reverend Bert Johns and Father Terry Madden. The strength of the responses by those present showed how much people were involved in the ceremony. We then all enjoyed a light lunch. The official opening ceremony lasted just 35 minutes. It was an excellent program coordinated by Kim Johnston, the public relations officer, and the staff of the Prince Charles Hospital.

There was also a fantastic response from the local community when, a few days later, the hospital held an open day. It attracted thousands of local residents and was a great time for the hospital.

I also saw the hospital from another perspective because, at the very time of the opening, my mother-in-law was a patient at the hospital. She started off in a ward in the old building and moved to the new building, which she found to have a warm and welcoming atmosphere. She was in hospital for a number of weeks and her condition deteriorated to such a degree that by the last week of July her treatment moved from that of coronary care to palliative care.

Kath Bartlett died peacefully in her sleep just before sunrise on the morning of Saturday, 31 July. Her family are very appreciative of the excellent care provided by the nursing, medical and support staff at the Prince Charles Hospital. Her children Brendan, Trish, Anthony and Cathy, and their spouses Irene, myself, Libby and Geoff were included in the discussions with staff and we were kept informed of Kath's progress before her demise.

In Kath's last days, staff assisted our family, including Kath's grandchildren, my own children, in saying farewell to a lady whom we loved deeply. Staff were sensitive to Kath's needs and the needs of the family. I saw nurses who were leaving work for a couple of days of well-deserved rest saying

goodbye to Kath. As they left the ward, the tears that flowed from their eyes showed how much they cared for their patient. This attention was not an isolated experience; they showed it to many of their patients.

The Prince Charles Hospital is a world-class facility. It is part of the local community. It has a devoted, professional and caring staff. We can all be proud of the Prince Charles Hospital.
