



Speech by

**Hon. D. HAMILL**

**MEMBER FOR IPSWICH**

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Hansard 5 October 2000

### **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

#### **Motor Accident Insurance Commission**

**Hon. D. J. HAMILL** (Ipswich—ALP) (Treasurer) (9.57 a.m.), by leave: I would like to inform the House of a significant new investment in research aimed at improving the recovery of people involved in motor vehicle accidents in Queensland.

As honourable members would be aware, the Motor Accident Insurance Commission is the regulatory authority for the compulsory third-party scheme. But what is less well known is that it also supports practical programs designed to reduce the social and economic cost of motor vehicle related injuries.

To that end the Motor Accident Insurance Commission will provide \$14m over the next five years to expand the high quality research work being undertaken by the Centre of National Research on Disability and Rehabilitation Medicine, known as CONROD, based at the University of Queensland. In 1997, the commission entered an agreement with the University of Queensland and the Queensland Institute of Medical Research to establish CONROD. The commission has provided about \$600,000 a year to establish the centre and support a wide range of research projects that are already under way.

The commission has also taken the initiative in accident prevention by establishing the Centre for Accident Research and Road Safety—Queensland, or CARRS-Q, in 1996. Both CONROD and CARRS-Q centres have earned broad community support and recognition for their worthwhile work.

We are all aware of the extraordinary human and social cost of road accidents. There is also a financial cost. For example, this year in Queensland there will be about 10,000 compulsory third-party insurance claims costing about \$700m in CTP premiums.

Despite the excellent work performed by our health workers who provide acute medical treatment and rehabilitation, the path to recovery is not always a seamless process. This is where the extra funding to CONROD will help. CONROD is already a recognised national and international research centre headed by Professor Nicholas Bellamy. With this extra funding, CONROD will build a multi-disciplinary team to undertake research that supports a seamless continuum of health care.

At the core of CONROD's future strategy is a trauma registry which collects the history and treatment of all seriously injured Queenslanders, whatever the cause of their injury. This registry is already partly established as a joint project between Queensland Health and CONROD and I would like to take this opportunity to thank my colleague the Minister for Health for her support.

The information obtained from this registry will help research into the prevention of injury and lead to recommendations for improvements in the system of providing acute care and rehabilitation to individuals who survive motor vehicle and all other traumatic injuries. The extra funding will also allow advances to be made in teaching programs for rehabilitation specialists. By increasing the emphasis on, and funding for, rehabilitation research and training, it is hoped that rehabilitation will, over time, increase its profile in the health system.

This initiative is also an important contribution towards developing Queensland's reputation as the Smart State as it will bring to prominence a research centre which has strong potential for leadership at the national and international level. It is of particular importance to those Queenslanders and their families who have the misfortune to be injured in motor vehicle accidents.