



Speech by

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MEMBER FOR MUDGEERABA

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MUDGEERABA CHILD HEALTH CLINIC

Mrs REILLY (Mudgeeraba—ALP) (11.20 p.m.): The electorate of Mudgeeraba is growing rapidly and essential services are increasing in demand. The substantial growth in young families in the area has put significant strain on a small part-time child health clinic on Franklin Drive in Mudgeeraba. Last week the Minister for Health, Wendy Edmond, and I inspected this very small service. It is a shoe box size service which, despite its cramped conditions, does a very good job in providing advice and support to hundreds of clients over just a three-day fortnight.

The Mudgeeraba clinic is only open six days per a four weekly period, every Tuesday and alternate Wednesdays. Last year 150 clients used this service and there are currently about 180 people on the books. Each week that it is open the clinic sees about 70 parents from throughout Gold Coast hinterland areas and Robina and further afield. With the acquisition of St Vincent's Hospital, which is now the Robina campus of the Gold Coast Hospital, there is an opportunity to provide a better, more comprehensive and extended child and family health clinic in a well-appointed, modern and centrally located facility.

An extended service will reduce the waiting times for mothers with newborn babies and also those with older babies, and allow nurses and health professionals to run group sessions and programs like Positive Parenting. The clinic nurse is currently often double booked. The waiting time for mothers with new babies can be two to three weeks, and for mothers with older babies up to six weeks before they get an appointment. If they have a matter of concern, the nurse will try to fit them in outside of the normal working hours of 8.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. or refer them to one of the other clinics.

A service at the Robina campus facility would be able to be co-located with other relevant health professionals and diagnostics and thereby provide the holistic parent support and family health clinic that the area so desperately needs. The former professional specialist medical centre at the Robina campus can more than adequately house a superior child health clinic. It is in close proximity to bus and rail and the Robina town centre, which makes it a very easily accessible location.

I have consulted with client groups, parents and residents. I have flagged this possible move in my newsletters and have received overwhelming support for the proposal to move the service from Mudgeeraba to Robina. I want to thank the minister for her prompt and very genuine interest in this issue. It has only come to my attention in recent months.

I want to also thank the staff of the clinic and of Queensland Health for their support and their cooperation in seeking a better outcome for Gold Coast parents. I particularly want to thank Richard Olley, the regional district manager, for his support and guidance. I will continue to work with him and the other Queensland Health officials to identify other appropriate uses for this modern and well-appointed space at the Robina campus. It is almost vacant now. Most of the specialists have left, and a number of community organisations have sought my support to try to enable them to use that facility.