



Speech by

Peta-Kaye Croft

MEMBER FOR BROADWATER

Hansard Thursday, 7 October 2004

GOLD COAST HOSPITALS

Mrs CROFT (Broadwater—ALP) (7.04 p.m.): During the 2004 campaign, the Beattie government made a commitment to establish a new emergency department, coronary care and intensive care services at the Robina campus. As part of a significant upgrading of nursing positions across the state, the Beattie government will fund an additional 97 nurses over the next three years at the Robina Hospital to work in these new units. This is a commitment of more than \$16 million to the Gold Coast and will assist in meeting the increasing demand for emergency services in our fast growing region. Over the next three years the Beattie government has also allocated \$7 million for the cardiac catheter service at the Gold Coast Hospital. Planning and design of the Gold Coast catheter service is well advanced for the service, which will allow cardiologists to closely assess the finer details of a patient's heart. This service will provide information about the structure of the heart and its valves, the pressure in the chambers and the amount of oxygen in the chambers to the expert staff at the Gold Coast.

This Labor government has also committed \$6.3 million to open eight additional chairs at the Gold Coast renal service for patients to receive this treatment locally. These extra chairs will be provided at the Robina Hospital and there will be expanded services at the Gold Coast Hospital. The new service will operate up to six days a week and will be able to provide up to two dialysis sessions per chair per day. The expansion of this service is further evidence of this government's commitment to provide additional services close to where people live. The development of the service at Robina will enable the establishment of a centre based self-care dialysis service under which patients who are able can manage their own dialysis.

Earlier this year, Queensland Health and its partners made major inroads into reducing category 1 and 2 waiting lists. Since this government was returned in February, an additional 4,793 Queensland patients have undergone surgery on top of normal surgery performed as part of the government's \$20 million elective surgery program. I am a passionate defender of the health services provided on the Gold Coast and have been active in ensuring that we receive our fair share. Through my work with the Minister for Health, this year I have successfully lobbied for over \$200,000 to improve our local Home and Community Care services in Broadwater and for \$300,000 to establish a birthing centre at the Gold Coast Hospital. Through delivering our commitments over the next three years, the Beattie Labor government will make a significant difference in the quality of services enjoyed by Gold Coast residents. I am proud to play my part in ensuring that this occurs.