



Speech by

Peta-Kaye Croft

MEMBER FOR BROADWATER

Hansard Wednesday, 9 August 2006

HOPE ISLAND MEDICAL CENTRE

Ms CROFT (Broadwater—ALP) (10.14 pm): Recently I had the pleasure of joining Professor Judy Searle, Director of Medicine, from Griffith University on the Gold Coast in opening the new Hope Island Medical Centre. It is important for communities to have access to general practitioner services, and the opening of the Hope Island Medical Centre could not have been more timely. With residential development predicting the population for the Hope Island area will increase substantially over the next five years and with the retirement of many long-serving local GPs and bulk-billing on the decline, the new Hope Island Medical Centre will service a great need for people of all ages. I welcome Drs Andrew Weissenberger, Hung Nguyen, Damien Sullivan, Sharon Maja along with the fabulous reception staff led by practice manager Mrs Anthea Blower to their new workplace.

The Hope Island Medical Centre offers the services one would expect to find at a local medical centre: antenatal and postnatal care, annual health assessments for patients aged 70 years or over, development assessments for babies and children, management plans for patients with chronic health problems and a whole range of other services with visiting allied health staff also assisting with other services. However, I wish to mention two unique partnerships developed through the Hope Island Medical Centre and, in doing so, commend the efforts of all involved in supporting the local community. The practice has two medical students from Griffith University and has established an on-site learning centre with access to the latest information technology to further medical education with a focus on hands-on experience. This arrangement will go a long way to supporting the next generation of GPs, ensuring they get on-the-job experience and guidance from the medical industry and a curriculum delivered by Griffith University that ensures high-quality patient care.

Through the generosity of Vision in Paradise, the Paradise Point Progress Association and the wonderful volunteer drivers of the Runaway Bay Lions Club, Hope Island Medical Centre is able to offer a door-to-door pick-up service for patients with limited mobility or difficulties accessing transport. The service currently operates at \$4 for a return trip on Tuesday and Thursday mornings. This unique initiative for the Gold Coast demonstrates how communities can work together with their local GPs to assist people in need. The practice averages 650 patients per week with at least 80 new patients per week, many of whom are seniors. The practice bulk-bills pensioners, healthcare cardholders and children under the age of 16. The practice also offers home visits to regular patients and the doctors look after numerous residents at local aged care facilities. I was delighted to have been invited to celebrate the opening of the Hope Island Medical Centre with staff and clients and I look forward to assisting and supporting the staff on issues where needed.