



Speech by

**Phil Weightman**

**MEMBER FOR CLEVELAND**

Hansard Thursday, 9 August 2007

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## **REDLAND DISTRICT HOSPITAL**

**Mr WEIGHTMAN** (Cleveland—ALP) (10.27 am): I rise to inform the House that last week the Minister for Health came down to my electorate to open a brand-new 12-chair renal dialysis unit at the Redland District Hospital. The opening of this unit was part of a \$15.3 million redevelopment underway at the Redland Hospital. Having this unit open and operational will have a great impact on the lives of the people of the Redlands who access this service. In the past they have had to travel to the Princess Alexandra Hospital three days a week for five hours of treatment. Two of my constituents from Stradbroke Island, who were there when the minister visited, both said that having the unit at Cleveland had improved their quality of life because in the past they had lost a whole day each time they had to travel to and from the PA Hospital. Having the unit at Cleveland halved that time. Time is important to these people.

During the opening of the unit, the minister announced that 15 new nursing staff have been recruited and trained to work in the unit, and recruitment was ongoing to allow additional dialysis sessions to be introduced. This is extremely important, particularly in view of the fact that the number of Queenslanders diagnosed with severe kidney failure is estimated to be at 13,400. Unfortunately, that figure is growing at the rate of six per cent per year.

The Beattie government is also providing an extra \$6 million this year for health service districts to fund chronic kidney disease management strategies and to access renal surgery and additional renal services. I would like to take the opportunity to offer the people who are using the new facilities at the Redland Hospital my best wishes, especially my long-time friend Trevor Clarkson who was present on the day that the clinic was open. Trev's upbeat approach to life is an inspiration. I would also like to thank the minister and the Beattie government for providing these services to the people of the Redlands and neighbouring areas. It is greatly appreciated.