



Speech by

Hon. Stephen Robertson

MEMBER FOR STRETTON

Hansard Thursday, 19 April 2007

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Queensland Children's Hospital

Hon. S ROBERTSON (Stretton—ALP) (Minister for Health) (9.59 am): Work is well underway on a new \$700 million Queensland Children's Hospital. Several milestones have already been achieved since we announced last year that we would develop a dedicated 400-bed children's hospital on Mater's South Brisbane site. The first phase, involving improved paediatric cardiac services at the Prince Charles Hospital, is almost complete with 20 of 25 additional clinical positions now filled at the hospital. The second phase will see these clinicians relocate to the Mater Children's by this time next year as part of the staged merger of all paediatric services into one single hospital. Later this year, the Mater Children's oncology services will relocate to the Royal Children's to facilitate the transfer. Phase three, involving the actual development of the new hospital, is progressing extremely well.

Careful planning has been underway to ensure this facility will be the most advanced paediatric hospital in Australia. Nearly 50 planning groups are engaged in identifying best practice models which will culminate in the hospital's health services plan later this year. This planning is symbolically important as it represents the first step in the staff from all three hospitals involved coming together. We are also actively engaging with other key stakeholders, including the hospital foundations, our university partners, our union partners and patient support groups. We will consult widely with families and young people about their hopes and aspirations for the new hospital.

I table a document titled 'Talking and Planning Together' that outlines this approach. A family advisory council and youth forum are being formed and will meet in the coming weeks. For the youth forum, we are looking for 15 young people aged 12 to 18 years who are current patients, siblings or previous patients of any of the three hospitals involved. Among the many other ways that the community can obtain information and have their say is a new web site to be launched shortly.

The Queensland Children's Hospital project is an exciting opportunity to build a statewide paediatric service of international significance and I encourage the community to become involved and help shape what will be a world-class paediatric hospital. As we say in the 'Talking and Planning Together' document, plan the extraordinary not the ordinary.

Tabled paper: Report by Queensland Health, titled 'Queensland Children's Hospital, Talking and Planning together'.