



Speech by

# Hon. Stephen Robertson

MEMBER FOR STRETTON

Hansard Thursday, 11 October 2007

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## MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

### Children's Cancer Centre

**Hon. S ROBERTSON** (Stretton—ALP) (Minister for Health) (10.10 am): The state government has achieved another important milestone in the development of a single dedicated children's hospital in Queensland. The Mater Children's and Royal Children's cancer services have now amalgamated. This means that our public health system now boasts a single integrated centre to look after children with cancer.

The new Queensland Children's Cancer Centre at the Royal Children's Hospital amalgamates children's cancer services previously delivered at both the Royal and the Mater. Each year the Mater and the Royal treat and care for around 150 new and existing young cancer patients in Queensland. Mater patients began moving a couple of weeks ago and I am advised that all former Mater patients are now being treated at the Royal. In addition, Mater Children's clinical cancer staff, including 10 nurses and three medical specialists, have relocated so that the Queensland Children's Cancer Centre is appropriately staffed. The vacated Mater space will accommodate the Prince Charles's paediatric cardiac unit in the first half of next year.

The integrated cancer service is an exciting step forward in the development of a single children's hospital in Queensland. It will improve cancer services in the short term before the new hospital is built by concentrating clinical experience and expertise in one location to improve outcomes for children. It has been made possible through a partnership between the Mater and Queensland Health and represents the first service amalgamation in the lead-up to the construction and opening of the new hospital.

A centralised cancer facility for Queensland children will maximise the use of clinical and research resources and improve opportunities for staff to develop specialised knowledge and skills. It will enhance paediatric clinical research in Queensland. More children will now benefit from current paediatric research emanating from the Royal Children's Hospital into brain tumours, leukaemia and solid tumours.

Planning for the new Queensland Children's Hospital is progressing according to schedule. The master planning phase is due for completion in the first quarter of next year and is occurring in tandem with the development of the hospital's health service plan, which is currently out for consultation.