



Speech by  
**Curtis Pitt**

**MEMBER FOR MULGRAVE**

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## **YARRABAH PRIMARY HEALTH CARE FACILITY**

**Mr PITT** (Mulgrave—ALP) (10.07 pm): I was thrilled to join Deputy Premier and Minister for Health, Paul Lucas, and emergency services minister, Neil Roberts, to open the new \$16.3 million Gurriny Yealamucka Primary Health Care facility at Yarrabah last week, delivering on a long-held commitment that was started through the hard work of the former member. Queensland Health, the Queensland Ambulance Service and Gurriny Yealamucka Health Service Aboriginal Corporation are all co-located at the centre in a unique partnership that will become the model for future projects. The primary healthcare centre brings together a wide range of medical, community and other health services and their existing staff under one roof. The brand-new building includes a multipurpose meeting room and boardroom for the community and services that aim to improve service delivery and encourage a holistic approach to health.

Yarrabah's two paramedics attended more than 650 jobs last financial year, 170 of which were life-threatening emergencies. This investment recognises the commitment our paramedics make to the Yarrabah community and the value we place on providing the community with health services of the highest standard.

The importance of providing a one-stop shop for health services cannot be underestimated. One of the fantastic features of this joint facility is that paramedics can drive their patient into the station and deliver them directly into the centre's emergency facility through an adjoining purpose-built door. This saves valuable time and ensures paramedics and health centre staff can continue to work together to achieve the best possible outcome for the patient.

Queensland Health already provides a range of services in Yarrabah, including emergency triage, outpatient palliative care, primary clinical care, immunisation, child health, renal, health promotion and education, support for victims of sexual and domestic violence and transport services to larger centres for urgent and elective medical needs. The centre will also provide facilities for visiting health specialists such as mental health, alcohol and drug services, the child development unit, diabetes services, the eye health team, social workers, GPs, TB screening and more.

The new service at Yarrabah, along with Mapoon and Kowanyama on Cape York, is one of the three pilot sites chosen to transition Queensland Health's primary health services in discrete Indigenous communities towards greater community control. The opening of this facility and co-location sets the stage for more detailed discussions about how we can work with Gurriny health to increase the community's involvement in the planning, allocation of resources and delivery of health services in Yarrabah. This includes increasing the number of Aboriginal people delivering those services. On that point, it is fitting that the new building will be named after Sister Muriel Stanley and will be a worthy memorial to her and her dedication to improving Indigenous health and supporting Indigenous people. My hope is that young people in the community will all know Sister Muriel's story. I have no doubt that many will seek to emulate her contribution and become health workers and leaders in the community themselves.