



Speech by
Grace Grace

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

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QUEENSLAND INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL RESEARCH CENTRE

Ms GRACE (Brisbane Central—ALP) (11.58 am): Well, if you were Chuck Feeney of Atlantic Philanthropies and you wanted to invest in world-class scientific and medical research, where would you go? Brisbane, Queensland, is the answer. It was wonderful to be with Premier Anna Bligh as the first sod was turned on a new addition to Queensland's medical research and development capabilities. This is particularly exciting as work has begun during February, which is Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month, and I am today joining the Teal Team by wearing this teal ribbon.

The \$179 million Queensland Institute of Medical Research Centre at Herston in Brisbane will create about 360 jobs during construction, will be home to 20 new research laboratories and will be staffed by 400 scientists and students. This facility will be completed by 2012 and has been funded by the state and federal governments and by Atlantic Philanthropies. The centre will increase the capability of QIMR to further its research in areas such as tropical diseases, vaccine development, cancer and genetics, which is excellent news for women suffering ovarian cancer during this special month.

Equally exciting will be the introduction of a Mental Health Research Division, with brain neuroimaging facilities which will enable QIMR to improve research of serious mental illnesses such as schizophrenia. Added to this will be an expansion in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health, with room for 20 extra scientists researching cancer, asthma, rheumatic heart disease, dementia and maternal and child health. An education centre, which is part of the project, features a state-of-the-art high school research laboratory for teacher and student workshops.

The state government over the last decade has transformed Queensland's scientific community from 8,500 scientists to 18,100 scientists during this period—the biggest increase of any Australian state. New scientific infrastructure like this will continue to make Queensland a world-class player in the vital areas of scientific and medical research, and I ask: what can be better than that? Lives will be saved and cures will be found because of QIMR's world-class research. I am proud to have them in my electorate.