




Speech by

Annastacia Palaszczuk

MEMBER FOR INALA

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INALA COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTRE

 **Ms PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Leader of the Opposition) (10.42 pm): Last Tuesday I was honoured to attend the official start of construction for the Inala Community Health Centre's \$7 million expansion. I would like to place on the public record that the member for Stafford and Assistant Minister for Health, Dr Chris Davis, was also in attendance. I thank him very much for travelling out to Inala and for his speech and welcome. We hope to see him back there for the opening which is scheduled for December. I also want to pay tribute to the Inala elders for their attendance. This is something we have been wishing and hoping for, and it is now being delivered out in our local community.

The Southern Queensland Centre of Excellence in Indigenous Primary Health Care was part of the previous government's commitment to closing the gap and improving health outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders. This is a great example of the previous Labor government delivering more services sooner for local communities like Inala. The upgrade is the dream of associate professor and director of the centre, Professor Noel Hayman. Professor Hayman's vision is for the centre to be a well-integrated, one-stop shop which provides all of the GP and specialist healthcare services that Indigenous people need and that it will ultimately reduce Indigenous hospital admissions across Queensland.

Professor Hayman's work is helping to improve the life expectancy of thousands of Indigenous Australians not only in Inala but across the state. In the last 10 years alone, he has expanded the centre's number of registered patients from 12 to 6,000. His work is improving the control of diabetes and immunisation rates, and it is great to see Indigenous people travelling from all over Brisbane to this centre. I would also like to congratulate Professor Hayman for making his dream of expanding the centre a reality.

I would like to place on the record my hope that the new government will provide the \$2 million of recurrent funding that is needed for Professor Hayman to continue his work at the centre and this invaluable health care for Indigenous Queenslanders. It would be detrimental to Indigenous health care across Queensland if the new government did not continue to support this important service.

The expansion allows staff to improve care for patients by working with visiting specialists in the area of heart disease, diabetes and respiratory conditions. The expansion, which is due to be completed around December this year, will enable the centre to double the number of patients who are treated each day to 200. The Inala expansion also means that the centre can expand its regional reach and provide Indigenous healthcare services in rural and regional areas. This is a great initiative. It is one that will provide many benefits. It will provide jobs for the local community. Essentially, it will be closing the gap, which is fundamentally and essentially important.