




Speech by  
**Bill Byrne**

**MEMBER FOR ROCKHAMPTON**

Hansard Wednesday, 20 June 2012

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**HEALTH AND HOSPITALS NETWORK AND OTHER LEGISLATION  
AMENDMENT BILL AND HEALTH LEGISLATION (HEALTH  
PRACTITIONER REGULATION NATIONAL LAW) AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Mr BYRNE** (Rockhampton—ALP) (8.39 pm): I rise to support both bills. Further to that, I rise to congratulate the Minister for Health. I wish to put that on the record as well. One of the very first calls I received at my office after the poll was declared was from the Minister for Health. I would characterise that conversation as practical, apolitical and adult. As a newbie, it left me with a very positive impression. That initial confidence was validated by the minister's wise appointment of the new hospital and health board chairman. I have heard other members speak most favourably about their board chairs. Professor Bob Miles has been appointed to Central Queensland—and what a great choice he is.

I first met Bob when he was working as a senior manager with the DPI in Central Queensland. In those days I was a relatively young major and had been charged with implementing the recommendations of a commission of inquiry into sandmining within the Shoalwater Bay military area. Part of those recommendations involved creating a management advisory committee to oversight all aspects of activities carried on within that defence practice area. Membership of that committee included graziers and traditional owners and representatives from the marine park authority, the Conservation Foundation, ATSIC, the Wildlife Preservation Society and Capricorn Conservation Council, as well as commercial fishermen amateur fishermen et cetera. I hope that members can appreciate some of the points of friction in a room with such diverse and often conflicting views. It was during that process and bedding down the committee that I met Bob and rapidly came to rely on him for his sage advice. He is a gentleman, considered and balanced, with an excellent reputation and an adult.

In preparing this speech I realised that I have many family members and friends who have worked or are currently working for Queensland Health. My sister is a physiotherapist and worked for some years in a Queensland Health regional hospital. My sister-in-law in Gladstone is a radiographer who has spent most of her working life within Queensland Health. One of my daughters works for Queensland Health and, of course, there are the nurses and allied health professionals who row with my wife in the masters women's 8 for the Fitzroy Rowing Club. One thing I know about all of those people is that, when working for Queensland Health, they gave their all to the cause of delivering quality health outcomes for all Queenslanders. The people within Queensland Health care, and the vast majority do their jobs exceptionally well. On a daily basis Queensland Health performs many thousands of transactions, and the vast majority of those are very positive for the patients. Admittedly, a tiny percentage of the interactions generate suboptimal results. It is those that tend to hit the headlines and end up being discussed in this place. They should never be considered to be representative of the marvellous work done by tens of thousands of Queensland Health workers every single day. The new boards inherit some fabulous people.

During the recent shadow cabinet visit to Central Queensland, the member for Bundamba made a point of visiting the health facilities, particularly the Rockhampton Hospital and the Yeppoon Hospital. She was impressed by the people and the facilities. As has been mentioned already this evening, a

\$244 million project is progressively being delivered in Rockhampton for the redevelopment of that hospital. It should be completed by 2013. It will deliver an additional 109 beds and 14 ED treatment spaces. I will not give up the cause for the helicopter-landing areas and car parking associated with that facility.

The Central Queensland Health Service District encompasses Rockhampton and the Banana and Central Highlands regional councils, as well as the Woorabinda Aboriginal Council boundaries. It is a geographic area of about 101,000 square kilometres. The Rockhampton Hospital provides the Clinical Service Capability Framework level 3 services of anaesthetic services, operating suite services, emergency services, medical services, surgical services, maternity services, cardiology, general paediatrics and rehabilitation. I support these bills, I support the new chairman and I congratulate the Minister for Health for his adult approach and wise choices to date.