




Speech by

Dr Chris Davis

MEMBER FOR STAFFORD

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PRINCE CHARLES HOSPITAL

 **Dr DAVIS** (Stafford—LNP) (3.57 pm): Much is made of issues in our healthcare system and I think it is very important to provide a perspective on the excellent work done through so many of our hospitals and other healthcare settings in this state. I take this opportunity to mention the excellent work done at the Prince Charles Hospital, which I am very proud to have in my electorate. On average, we admit about 3,500 in-patients per month, we have accumulatively about 17,500 accrued in-patient episodes per month and an amazing 40,000 non-admitted patients per month or 1,300 per day. A survey of patient satisfaction in our emergency department last year indicated that some 94 per cent were satisfied—in other words, they indicated that their health care was good, very good or excellent. That is an amazing tribute to our staff.

Of course the gap of six per cent is still of concern and it is great that the LNP has a solution—our hospital boards will provide wonderful local input into the community's needs, with the opportunity for the community to work with the local board to then work with our excellent staff and address those issues. The local boards will also provide a very valuable opportunity not only for the community but also for the staff, the staff who simply were not heard under previous arrangements. The payroll issue is just one example.

Can I say as a staff member that, even though I was responsible for a very big department at the Prince Charles Hospital with a budget in excess of \$20 million per year, I was not consulted at all as to the sort of payroll system that would work for my staff and work for the accountability that we all have, and we have seen the consequences. We talk about the financial consequences but there were also very real consequences for the staff and the payroll staff who had all the stress of actually having to deal with this issue.

So it is a very exciting time that we will now be changing the culture in our hospitals, getting even better results for patients, better results for staff and, of course, getting the very valuable input from local boards. I have to say that in a previous life I was a general manager of a hospital board elsewhere, and the hospital boards are really a very useful vehicle. I highly commend the LNP for taking this very valuable input into advancing health services in Queensland and my electorate of Stafford.