




Speech by

Deb Frecklington

MEMBER FOR NANANGO

Hansard Wednesday, 30 May 2012

KILCOY HOSPITAL

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (11.09 pm): I am very proud to mention that on Friday, 25 May the community of Kilcoy celebrated the 100-year anniversary of their hospital, and the celebrations continued on into Saturday with the annual Kilcoy Hospital fete. Kilcoy is in the wonderful electorate of Nanango. The wonderful hospital auxiliary ladies run this fete every year and are so ably supported by the community. Not only did we have the fete with all the beautiful food and everything that you can get at a wonderful fete like that; the local dance school came along as well. It is an absolute credit to the dance school. It was freezing cold, but all of those little kids got out there and danced. It was fantastic. It was also wonderful to see two of the doctors who have worked at that hospital for many years, Dr Frank Harbison and Dr Doug Chapman. I was actually born in a very small hospital like Kilcoy at Miles. Dr Doug Chapman's wife, Mrs Chapman, was also born in the same hospital—although I think some years before me.

Hearing the stories of the hospital's history was wonderful. I congratulate the staff on this important regional health facility that we have in the electorate. It was wonderful to see that the auxiliary was able to organise such a great event. When the hospital was originally opened it was built at a cost of 1,598 pounds and eight shillings. The original building consisted of two wards, 30 beds, a surgery and dining rooms. This was a good old country hospital that absolutely everything could be done in. Records show that the first patient of the newly opened Kilcoy Hospital was Mr Bleakely of Stoney Creek who was suffering from a broken thigh caused when his horse fell on him while he was rounding up some pigs. The *Courier-Mail* described the building on its opening as 'a fine hospital with a splendid position on the brow of a hill overlooking the town'. This is still the fact today.

Currently the Kilcoy Hospital provides to the community a number of outreach services: maternity, child health, paediatrics and mental health. The hospital still provides a very important emergency department, which is staffed by both nursing and medical staff 24 hours, seven days a week. Currently there are between seven and eight emergencies a day in Kilcoy. I am pleased to be able to mention the Kilcoy Hospital as a wonderful addition to my electorate.