



Speech by


Hon. Geoff Wilson

MEMBER FOR FERNY GROVE

Hansard Tuesday, 14 February 2012

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Medical Research

 **Hon. GJ WILSON** (Ferny Grove—ALP) (Minister for Health) (10.10 am): The Bligh government is investing in innovation, finding new ways to deliver the best possible health care to Queenslanders. We are committed to attracting and retaining skilled health professionals dedicated to putting Queensland at the cutting edge of medical research and technology.

Queensland medical research has already delivered world firsts including the cervical cancer vaccine. These potentially life-changing discoveries would not have been possible without this government's ongoing commitment to investing in medical research. That is why I am pleased to announce today eight new fellowships worth \$3.9 million which will allow some of our most talented researchers to make new discoveries leading to better patient care. The health research fellows and clinical academic fellows will investigate the likes of cardiovascular and respiratory disease, head and neck cancer, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health, the immunobiology of lymphoma, medical radiation, lung cancer, nursing and midwifery, and maternal child health over five years. The key to improving health outcomes for all Queenslanders is investing heavily in health and medical research, and translating that research into better patient care.

The Bligh government is committed to delivering on our vision and our plan for Queensland: a state with a knowledge based economy, a place where innovation and imagination are valued and supported and the place to be for people on the cutting edge of health and medical research. Contrast that to the LNP. They have made it clear that their priorities lie elsewhere. Research and innovation do not feature in their view of the economy. Under the LNP, the 36 researchers who have received these grants since 2008 would have been swept aside, and that is typical. There is no plan from the LNP on health. Their only policy involves stripping \$400 million from the Sunshine Coast hospital and health budget. They do not have a plan for health in Queensland. They do not even have a plan B for who will be leader if Campbell Newman loses in Ashgrove. How can they be trusted to form government if they do not even have a plan B?