



Speech by


**Lisa France**

**MEMBER FOR PUMICESTONE**

Hansard Tuesday, 21 August 2012

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## **CABOOLTURE HOSPITAL, MENTAL HEALTH UNIT**

 **Mrs FRANCE** (Pumicestone—LNP) (9.19 pm): Tonight I rise to speak about the impact of the hospital and health boards and the brand new mental health facility at Caboolture. The wonderful staff at Caboolture Hospital are struggling to meet the needs of our local community due to the mismanagement of Queensland Health by the previous Labor government. I wish to highlight the important steps this government is taking to improve health service delivery at Caboolture Hospital and around the state, and how the health reforms are having a huge and positive impact on our local communities.

What these boards mean for communities is an assurance that the decision makers are aware of the local issues affecting health service delivery and that decision makers are working directly with community members to improve services. For the constituent in my electorate who has been waiting for four years for his prostate cancer surgery, it means knowing that a local, professional and informed board is actively pursuing solutions to reduce the waiting list and get him into the hospital.

The resources provided by the previous government were not enough to deal with problems affecting local service delivery. At struggling hospitals around the state, including Caboolture Hospital, the staff were doing the best they could with the resources they were provided, but it was not enough. I am confident that the constituents in my electorate will soon have access to improved health services, better equipped staff and a better health system that is working harder for Queenslanders.

The changes introduced as part of the government's comprehensive health reforms are strengthening community involvement by asking what they need from their health system. Decisions will be informed by people who know what their community needs and who can offer their knowledge and advice to deliver solutions. I am pleased to tell my constituents that the new hospital and health boards are the beginning of a better service delivery platform, the beginning of improved access to health services by those less fortunate in their communities and the beginning of an efficient and capable Caboolture Hospital operating with new resources and improved services.

Earlier this month in Caboolture, the new mental health unit was opened. It is a fantastic addition to the health services available to our community. The opening of the facility has increased to 67 the total number of mental health beds on the Caboolture Hospital campus. That is great news for those in our community requiring mental health care. It is hoped that, by providing dedicated care to patients with mental health issues, the facility will help ease the load on our emergency services and hospital emergency departments. The opening of the mental health unit in Caboolture has also provided new opportunities for local nurses, with approximately 60 new nursing positions being filled in recent months. Over the coming years the Metro North Mental Health Service will provide support and direction for the facility.

The delivery of and access to health services in my electorate will continue to be one of my key priorities. I am pleased to be part of a government that is committed to delivering better health services to my community.