




Speech by

Michael Crandon

MEMBER FOR COOMERA

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

 **Mr CRANDON** (Coomera—LNP) (6.16 pm): I rise to make a short contribution to the Health and Hospitals Network and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2012. The main purpose of the bill is to amend the Health and Hospitals Network Act 2011 to strengthen the decentralisation of healthcare delivery in Queensland and implement the revised national health funding arrangements under the National Health Reform Agreement, or the NHRA. The Health and Hospitals Network Act will be renamed the hospital and health boards act 2011. The bill renames governing councils to 'hospital and health boards' and local health and hospital networks to 'hospital and health services'. In particular, the bill will remove the prohibition on hospitals and health services owning land and buildings and employing staff. It also provides for the establishment of advisory boards and requires them to establish an executive committee.

Under the current act, local health and hospital networks are prohibited from owning land and buildings. The new act will enable hospitals and health services to own land and buildings. The safeguard is that approval of the minister and the Treasurer is required. Once again, under the current act, they have the power to employ the chief executive and other health executives but not other staff. Under the new act, when hospital and health services are prescribed by regulation, all departmental staff working for the service at that time will become employees of the hospital and health service on the same terms and conditions as currently prevail. The staff employed by hospital and health services will be subject to state-wide enterprise bargaining agreements and awards and other standard state-wide employment terms and conditions as determined by the department's chief executive. That is a safeguard for employees and is to prevent any wage competition. Honourable members could imagine the potential situation were we to not include that provision. We might see a situation where staff are headhunted from one part of the state to another. It would not be appropriate if we found there was a wage war or a conditions war between the various regions.

To build capacity at the local level and to strengthen local input into hospitals and health boards, it is proposed to amend the act to enable ancillary boards to be established for a specific hospital and health service or geographic area. Ancillary boards will provide advice to the relevant hospital and health boards. A number of local communities have expressed a strong desire for boards to be established on a more local basis. This bill achieves this result. As such, we will see a better health system focused on delivering appropriate health outcomes for those local communities. I commend the bill to the House.