




Speech By
Hon. Jarrod Bleijie

MEMBER FOR KAWANA

PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Sunshine Coast University Hospital; Queensland Health

 **Hon. JP BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (3.30 pm): Since the election of the Newman government I have continued my part in the community-wide campaign to build and commence the construction of the Sunshine Coast University Hospital and improve all health services on the Sunshine Coast. Hospital construction has accelerated on this project, after being delayed by the previous Labor government. It was likely that it would never have been built.

The LNP government is delivering a free public hospital at Kawana for the people of the Sunshine Coast and the wider community. There has been lots of debate on the Sunshine Coast recently by those advocating that we are privatising the Sunshine Coast University Hospital. That is not true. The Sunshine Coast University Hospital will be a free public hospital—the best in Queensland, if not Australia. This is a complete fabrication of what is actually occurring.

The hospital will be a free hospital and will provide a world-class training facility for students and first-class health care. I have received a number of questions about the hospital from members of the community and I am only too happy to answer those questions. I am pleased to report that the Sunshine Coast University Hospital will have a 24-hour accident and emergency department. It will create massive new surgical capacity for the Sunshine Coast region, as envisioned by the community, the government and the hospital's advocates. The Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service Board will administer the operation of the Sunshine Coast University Hospital. Teaching obligations will be discharged at the same high level that they are at at other tertiary facilities in Queensland. I appreciate the many years of hard work that so many Sunshine Coast residents have contributed to make the Sunshine Coast University Hospital a reality. Under the local direction of our Hospital and Health Service Board, Sunshine Coast University Hospital will break new ground.

Across the state, reforms will improve health services for all Queenslanders. We were elected to sort out the mess that was in Queensland Health. In the short time since this government was elected, ambulance ramping has reduced by about 90 per cent. The member for Morayfield said he was at a hospital lately and there was no ramping. To provide some perspective, I think it is important to take one step back and look at what we are trying to fix—a health system that was described by the former government as sick; a system which allowed bureaucracy to get out of control. We have seen a 43 per cent increase in Health funding over the past six years, but only a 17 per cent increase in services.

If we continue to do the same thing over and over, we will continue to have the same result—a system that saw more than 200,000 Queenslanders placed on a secret waiting list just to get onto the official waiting list, a system with fake Tahitian princes in it and more than 100,000 on the dental waiting list. Few would deny that change is necessary. The Newman government is delivering that

change—a change that is maximising healthcare services and bringing Queensland Health back within budget for the first time in a decade.

I thank members of the Sunshine Coast community for continuing to fight for the Sunshine Coast University Hospital. To dispel any rumours, despite the fact that the government is looking at better ways to efficiently deliver health services the hospital, when it is built the hospital it will be a tertiary hospital, it will be free to the public, it will have an accident and emergency department and it will be the best hospital in Queensland.