




Speech By
Rob Molhoek

MEMBER FOR SOUTHPORT

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Gold Coast University Hospital

 **Mr MOLHOEK** (Southport—LNP) (3.11 pm): It was my great pleasure to represent both the Premier and the health minister at the Gold Coast University Hospital Foundation Annual Gala Extravaganza just a few weeks ago. I particularly want to take this opportunity to congratulate the CEO of the hospital foundation, Kim Sutton; the chair of the foundation, Gary Baildon; and Andrew Meadowcroft, who worked very hard to organise what was an amazing evening.

Mr Stevens: Secret squirrel.

Mr MOLHOEK: Yes, secret squirrel. The outcome of that evening was that the hospital foundation raised another \$70,000 towards support services on the Gold Coast.

When the hospital opens we will have everything that we have pushed so hard for: comprehensive health services close to home, the very latest in medical equipment, more hospital beds and more emergency bays. It is particularly great news if you are a local med student like my son David, who will be there as an intern next year. It is an enormous weight off your shoulders if you are about to undergo cancer treatment. Fortunately cancer patients will no longer have to travel to Brisbane for radiotherapy.

This project, some \$1.76 billion, is absolutely worth every single hard-earned, hard-won penny. We will have \$6 million in linear accelerators in the new hospital which will be able to treat up to 60 cancer patients a day. We will also have the best in neonatal intensive care, cardiac surgery for the first time, nuclear medicine and a helipad for trauma response.

Our government has remained fully committed to this major infrastructure project. Combined with the private hospital being built next door which will open in 2015, the Gold Coast will now have a healthcare precinct to be proud of. In our current budget, we have allocated a further \$151.7 million towards its completion and \$63.5 million for additional services. This year the Gold Coast Hospital and Health Service, chaired by Ian Langdon, will receive a record \$964 million—a 16½ per cent increase on last year.

Since coming to government we have seen significant improvements in the quality of patient care. We have seen waits for crucial cancer diagnostic investigations plummet from over two years to six months, eight out of 10 patients are now seen and treated within four hours of arrival compared with five out of 10 in 2010, and 90 per cent of patients now have their elective surgery within the time frames recommended by their doctors.

The move to the new Gold Coast University Hospital will occur later this month. It will involve some 200 staff members, there will be around 320 patients to be moved and the total number of trips to be undertaken over that weekend will be some 210 trips. We are all looking forward with great anticipation to the opening of the new hospital. I commend the health minister on the great work he has done in improving health services in our city.