



Speech By
Rob Molhoek

MEMBER FOR SOUTHPORT

Record of Proceedings, 30 October 2013

ADJOURNMENT

Gold Coast University Hospital



Mr MOLHOEK (Southport—LNP) (10.36 pm): Mr Deputy Speaker—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Just one moment, member for Southport. The speech was not controversial. Please allow members to speak in the adjournment debate. I call the member for Southport.

Mr MOLHOEK: This morning I had the pleasure of attending the official opening of the new Gold Coast University Hospital in my great electorate of Southport. I thought it would be fitting to share the words of Ian Langdon, Chairman of the Gold Coast Hospital and Health Service, who spoke this morning after the Premier and the Minister for Health opened the hospital.

Like the major cathedrals of the world, today's opening of the Gold Coast University Hospital has involved three generations of vision and dedication. Approximately seven years ago, the then chief executive, Jeff Hollywood, mooted the concept of a new university hospital. The government of the day provided support and the project planning commenced.

A second generation consisting of the then chief executive Adrian Nowistke, project leader Michael Allsop, the project team, architects, Lend Lease and contractors then proceeded to construct this magnificent complex. Throughout this process, our Gold Coast health services team ensured that clinical functionality remained at the forefront in all decision making.

Finally, a third generation chief executive Ron Calvert, accompanied by a board and supported by a 5,000 strong workforce, managed the completion and now assume the responsibility to capitalise on the magnificent facilities bestowed upon us not only here but also at Robina and Carrara, as well as throughout our many community based operations. The official opening and ribbon-cutting ceremony earlier today is thus the end of the process in which many individuals have all played a vital part. However, it is also the beginning of a new era—an era of increased community expectations for new services, innovation and ever-increasing standards of care.

Today, Mr Langdon commended the Newman government for our commitment to funding new services and growth. He noted that during the two financial periods he has been in his position, he has seen an increase of funding to service a nine per cent growth in activity year on year, with 91 per cent of such funding coming from the Queensland government. The cost of providing services through the Gold Coast Hospital and Health Service for the current year is \$940 million. Thus every two years their operating expenditures exceed the full cost of building a new hospital. This is why for the health board cutting the ribbon today and accepting the responsibility of operating and funding the service is extremely significant.

The provision of health services is never constant. For example, in 1966, nearly 50 years ago, the Southport Hospital reported total patient numbers of 3,299. The cost per inpatient day was \$9.19.

The average cost per outpatient visit was just \$1.19. If only those costs were the same today. Last year the Gold Coast Hospital and Health Service had more births than the total number of patients in 1966, had 125,000 emergency presentations and serviced over 300,000 outpatient visits and over 12,700 postnatal home visits. Today, costs per day certainly exceed \$9.19.

Gold Coast health, on moving into their new hospital premises, will continue to focus on their culture of care. Everyone involved in the project and all of the staff who transitioned to the new hospital should be congratulated.