




Speech By
Bruce Young

MEMBER FOR KEPPEL

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ADJOURNMENT

Capricorn Coast, Health

 **Mr YOUNG** (Keppel—LNP) (9.15 pm): I rise to acknowledge the hard work by the Central Queensland Hospital and Health Board chair, Mr Charles Ware, and fellow board members to finalise the agreement with private health provider Vanguard Health in delivering a stable medical workforce for the Yeppoon Hospital. Since the departure of the former medical superintendent Dr Scott Cooling, the Capricorn Coast Hospital has had ongoing issues with the recruitment and retention of medical officers. At the moment I would like to acknowledge 17 years of loyal commitment and excellent health care to the residents of the Capricorn Coast.

Dr Cooling went above and beyond his calling, giving his valuable time on many occasions. Mr Ware, the director of nursing, and myself had many meetings to get this private partnership in place. A review showed six doctors should be based at the Capricorn Coast, and this partnership with Vanguard Health will put an end to those recruitment issues, develop a stable medical workforce and help the Yeppoon Hospital reach its full potential. This means that the Capricorn Coast community will have access to a medical officer 24/7. This includes some on-call shifts during periods of low patient presentations. This is another example of the Central Queensland Hospital and Health Board working with, and delivering, for local communities. The funding for this three-year project is provided from efficiencies created in the 20 months since the formation of the board and investing those savings into the provision of better health care for Central Queenslanders. Capricorn Coast Hospital currently has four doctors, and most of these positions have been filled by locum staff due to recruitment difficulties. I also want to acknowledge Dr Don Kane, who assisted with unwavering advice on many occasions, often meeting late into the night to provide the flow path to provide this agreement to advance.

This private partnership, although not a new concept, is a first for our region and hopefully further promotes the sharing of professional medical services with the public sector. In regions across Queensland, the private-public health relationship is pivotal to specialist medical provision. I am passionate about enhancing those areas of medical specialists with the end goal to have regional residents treated in an environment where they are familiar, and also supported by, family and friends.

I wish to thank the minister for his continued support. It is a bold move to think outside the box, but it proves this government's commitment to service delivery to Queenslanders.