




Speech By
Rob Molhoek

MEMBER FOR SOUTHPORT

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MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Southport Electorate, Achievements

 **Mr MOLHOEK** (Southport—LNP) (3.21 pm): It is my great pleasure to rise in the House and provide an update on all of the great things happening in my electorate of Southport. The Newman government is getting on with the job of delivering better front-line services. A testament to this is some of the statistics we are seeing in our health services and the department of housing, and the figures we are seeing in respect of jobs and the economy. My congratulations go to the Minister for Tourism, Minister Stuckey, on the tremendous statistical growth we are seeing in visitor numbers to the Gold Coast.

For the 12 months to December last year we have seen a seven per cent increase in international visitors to the Gold Coast. It was my great pleasure today to host yet another Chinese delegation for lunch here in parliament. Last year we saw 792,000 international visitors come to the Gold Coast. That represents an estimated expenditure of some \$916 million and it is believed that is about a 10 per cent increase over the previous year. We are also seeing tremendous improvements in our health system. With the opening of the new Gold Coast University Hospital, 78 per cent of patients leave the emergency department within four hours compared with the statistics we saw under the previous government—just 63 per cent two or three years ago.

What a pleasure it was last week to receive an email from the head of the emergency department at our local hospital congratulating us as a government and the health minister on the expeditious and sensitive way in which he dealt with the SMO contracts. His colleagues were pleased that the matter had been brought to a resolution and that we as a government had been prepared to compromise and meet them part of the way. They were absolutely delighted.

I am sorry that the Minister for Housing is not here today, but I congratulate him also. In my electorate of Southport the waiting list for social housing as of February this year has gone down 61 per cent on where it was just two years ago. Two years ago when we came into government we saw some 400 people on public waiting lists for housing and now that is down to under 150 people. This is all testament to the fact that the Newman government is getting on with the job of delivering better services.

In closing, I want to congratulate Carol Baker and Wendy Bennett from the Gold Coast Fibromyalgia and Chronic Fatigue Syndrome Group for their outstanding work in raising awareness of this issue. All members would have received this morning a purple ribbon to be worn on 12 May, and I am pleased to see some of my colleagues in the House already wearing the ribbon. I was a bit worried about the purple clashing with the red, so I do not have both on today. I note the Minister for Tourism has but it does match your top, Minister.

(Time expired)