




Speech By
Rob Molhoek

MEMBER FOR SOUTHPORT

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MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Gold Coast University Hospital

 **Mr MOLHOEK** (Southport—LNP) (2.44 pm): It is with great pleasure that I rise to update the House on health services in my electorate on the Gold Coast and to talk about how the Newman government is delivering on our promise to revitalise front-line services for families. Yesterday, I toured the Newborn Care Unit at the Gold Coast University Hospital with the Premier and the Minister for Health to see firsthand how the expansion of services is impacting on families with premature and sick babies. The new facility at the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit provides specialised treatment for sick babies. This is the first time that these services have been made available on the Gold Coast.

The burden and stress involved in travelling to Brisbane daily to see a sick child, not to mention the cost, will no longer be faced by Gold Coast families. The new service has already supported eight babies born at 27 weeks and over 400 mums with pregnancy complications.

Yesterday, the Premier, the health minister and I were fortunate enough to meet eight-week-old Alfie, who was born at 27 weeks weighing just a little over 800 grams. Because of the services now provided at the Gold Coast University Hospital, mum Penny was able to stay on the coast to be with Alfie during his time in hospital as well as being available for the rest of her family.

I also want to thank the emergency department director, David Green, and nurse unit manager, Jo Timms, for taking the time out of their very busy schedules to show me around the emergency department earlier last week. Dave and Jo provided a very insightful overview of life in the emergency department and explained some of the challenges of moving into a brand-new hospital nearly 12 months ago. The number of emergency presentations has increased dramatically—much higher than anyone could have predicted. Staff are now dealing with as many as 250 presentations a day when a very busy day at the old Southport hospital would have been 200 presentations. Dr Green has had over 30 years experience as an emergency department doctor. He spoke very highly of our current minister, the Hon. Lawrence Springborg. He described him as the most enabling health minister they have ever seen and said that the minister's common-sense approach to empowering local hospital and health boards has been extremely successful. The staff on the ground are seeing great results and the patients in our hospitals are seeing the results of this government's commitment to revitalising front-line services.

I am also delighted to advise the House that the former Griffith University Medical School building is to be refurbished to provide a one-stop shop for community health services. Sixty staff will start providing services from October this year and by early next year some 300 staff will be based at the new Southport CDB health precinct. Our government recently announced a \$12 million commitment in capital funding for the renovation of this building. We will now see patient based services in the vicinity such as oral health, renal dialysis support, children's health, child mental health, alcohol and drug services, sexual health and transition to care. It is my great pleasure to be the member for Southport. I am very proud of the achievements of our government in delivering better front-line services.