



Speech By  
**Trevor Watts**


**MEMBER FOR TOOWOOMBA NORTH**

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Record of Proceedings, 30 October 2014

**MEMBER'S STATEMENTS**

**Toowoomba North Electorate, Health Services**

 **Mr WATTS** (Toowoomba North—LNP) (3.26 pm): I rise to talk briefly about the revitalisation of health front-line services in my electorate and surrounding area of the Darling Downs. I thank the hardworking nurses, doctors and hospital administrators who have achieved so much in such a short space of time after being left such a derelict mess by Labor. I also want to congratulate former member of this House Mike Horan, who chairs this board, and his board of the Darling Downs Hospital and Health Service. It has been a wonderful outcome for us locally, but on a state-wide basis there has been an over 18 per cent increase in Health funding. That is leading to some really good outcomes on the ground. The pay of nurses is up by more than 10 per cent, with a further increase due next year.

As a result of the savings made by the board there will be a \$2 million expansion of the endoscopy unit at the Toowoomba Hospital. This will mean a doubling of the capacity to deal with people who are waiting for that service. At a state-wide level there is \$23.4 million to bring much needed relief to the eye surgery wait list in Queensland. Locally we have 361 residents on the long wait list for eye surgery. I look forward to those people getting the operations they so desperately need. They have been waiting far too long.

At the Toowoomba Hospital there has been \$2.2 million of funding for an external makeover and to clear the maintenance backlog that was left. All of a sudden, when nurses and doctors go to work they can be proud again because they have a clean and tidy environment in which to work and all of the maintenance backlog has been cleared up.

It is very pleasing for me to be part of a government that is delivering so much for our region. I will give people a couple of other examples. Our surgery long wait list has gone from 319 in March 2012 to just two in September. Our dental long wait list was 7,222 and it is now sitting on zero. In terms of surgery patients being seen on time, 100 per cent of urgent patients needing to be seen within 30 days are being seen in that time. The number of semi-urgent patients—that is, those needing to be seen in 90 days—is currently sitting at 97 per cent. I commend the hard work of the doctors and nurses. I am sure we will see that get to 100 per cent. The number of non-urgent patients—that is, those who need to be seen within a year—is currently sitting at 97 per cent. I look forward to that being 100 per cent. In terms of emergencies, we have gone from 65 per cent being seen within four hours to 80 per cent now. These are great outcomes for front-line services in my region. If anybody wants to challenge the veracity of the facts, the opposition can make me withdraw them in the House.

*(Time expired).*