




Speech By
Hon. Cameron Dick

MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Gold Coast Hospital and Health Service

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (10.00 am): On Friday I had the opportunity to sit on the panel of the Improvers, a Gold Coast Hospital and Health Service initiative that engages local health workers to pitch ideas that will modernise our health system. The Improvers is an annual staff innovation program and a cornerstone of the Gold Coast Hospital and Health Service's strategy to engage staff. To judge these awards I sat alongside Queensland Health's Acting Director-General, Dr Michael Cleary, Gold Coast Hospital and Health board member Colette McCool, Gold Coast urologist Dr Scott McClintock, the editor of the *Gold Coast Bulletin*, Cath Webber, and radio host for *Hot Tomato*, Sean 'Flan' Flannery. Held in front of a packed crowd of more than 200 colleagues, 12 finalists presented their visions for service improvement with five winners sharing almost \$200,000 to help turn their bright ideas into reality. This included \$100,000 awarded to Glen Knuth, who works with oral health, to purchase a 3D printing and scanning machine, a statewide first. This technology will accelerate the production of prosthetics which will considerably reduce waiting times and increase productivity as all the prosthetics are currently handmade.

I also announced Queensland Health funding for the Gold Coast Hospital and Health Service to purchase a sensory-motor active rehabilitation training arm, otherwise known as a SMART arm. This was pitched by the rehabilitation team of Ashlea Walker, Kate Thompson and Sonya Shrimpton and is a Queensland innovation developed in Townsville and Queensland owned and made. I want to thank the Gold Coast Health executive for encouraging people who know best how we should run our hospitals and health services to participate in these innovation awards.

While I was at the Gold Coast I also announced that \$8 million of the \$30 million pool that the Palaszczuk government has made available to health services across the state to address waiting lists will go to the coast to provide additional specialist outpatient appointments, perform additional elective surgery and increase access to endoscopy procedures. Of Gold Coast Health's \$8 million share, more than \$1.2 million will be used to expedite care for people waiting longer than clinically recommended for an outpatient appointment with an ear, nose and throat, urology or colorectal specialist. This means that nearly 2,000 people on the Gold Coast will receive medical attention quicker than they would have under the previous government.

I also took the opportunity on the coast to look at the waiting list and see how many people have been waiting longer than clinically recommended for a specialist outpatient appointment. The answer is 6,396 people. That is over 6,000 people on the Gold Coast who would have been ignored under the former LNP governments wait-time gimmick. I also took the opportunity to see how many ready-for-surgery patients on the coast have been waiting longer than clinically recommended for elective surgery. In other words, the people who could have been 'guaranteed' their surgery under the LNP's failed wait-time program. The answer is zero, nought, nobody. Zero is precisely the number of people on the Gold Coast who would have benefited from the LNP's wait-time gimmick. It would have

been a meaningless guarantee—like guaranteeing that the Pacific Ocean is to the east of the Gold Coast or that the sky is blue. At the same time, over 6,000 people waiting longer than clinically recommended for an outpatients appointment would have been completely ignored by the member for Southern Downs and all of the LNP members on the Gold Coast.