




Speech By
Hon. Cameron Dick

MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE

Record of Proceedings, 14 July 2015

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Advance Queensland, Health

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (9.56 am): Yesterday the Premier announced the Queensland government's visionary Advance Queensland initiative. I am happy to inform the House that while I am the Minister for Health and the Minister for Ambulance Services, I will be a strong supporter of research and development, innovation and the sunrise industries of the 21st century that Advance Queensland will encourage and support. Queensland Health will play its part to build on Queensland's natural advantage—our skilled, educated and talented people—to create meaningful well-paid jobs not just now but also for the long term. We will build on the legacy of previous Labor governments, where big investments in innovation and technology are now paying off.

In the late 1990s the Beattie government began the Smart State program, which invested heavily in developing the skills of our state's workforce and our research capability. Between 1998 and 2012 Labor governments invested \$4.9 billion in our knowledge industries and life sciences. The Smart State program also invested heavily in setting up research institutions such as the Institute for Molecular Bioscience at the University of Queensland. Earlier this year I visited the institute and saw some of the work that they are doing in relation to superbugs. The institute is asking researchers from all over the world to send in their compounds for screening to help in the fight against these malicious and extremely complex infections.

I have also had the pleasure of visiting QUT's Institute of Health and Biomedical Innovation, where I saw firsthand groundbreaking research into stem cells, vaccines, chronic wound treatment and 3-D medical printing. This is groundbreaking research that is being carried out right here in Queensland. The work that is carried out in these institutes will make a real and tangible difference to the lives of many people not just in our great state, but around the world.

The challenge for this generation is to build on that legacy. To do that we need to set the frameworks to transfer this research base into jobs and commercial opportunities for our state. The announcements made by the Premier and the Advance Queensland package do just that. The Advance Queensland \$46 million Future Jobs Strategy and the \$76 million Business Investment Attraction package will help create jobs in the research and health sectors now and in the future. Health and life sciences have a big future in Queensland, and the entire sector knows that this government will be standing by their side.