



Speech By  
**Hon. Cameron Dick**


**MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE**

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**Queensland Health, Medical Research**

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (2.19 pm): The Palaszczuk government's plan for the diversification of Queensland's economy and the creation of new jobs both now and in the future is linked to the establishment of knowledge-based industries. In Health, we are encouraging a research culture to create those knowledge-based jobs so that Queensland can build on the already substantial reputation that we have internationally in medical research. In this area, I wish to inform the House of two events.

The first is the opening last week of the \$134 million Centre for Children's Health Research in South Brisbane. Before the establishment of this centre, children's health researchers were scattered throughout Brisbane in various universities and hospitals. This centre brings them under the one roof and is co-located with the state's only specialist paediatric teaching hospital, the Lady Cilento Children's Hospital. In this facility, the Lady Cilento Children's Hospital's doctors, nurses, surgeons and allied health professionals will work side by side with researchers from the centre's university and academic partners, the Queensland University of Technology, the University of Queensland and the Translational Research Institute, to ensure that medical and scientific breakthroughs transfer quickly to improved health for children.

The centre is linked into international research networks. Researchers there tell me that they are collaborating in research projects with 30 other institutions around the world. Some key areas of research being undertaken in the centre include burns, childhood cancer, mental health, child development, rehabilitation and neurology, microbiological and virological research, and exercise and nutrition. The Centre for Children's Health Research represents the largest investment in child and adolescent health research in Queensland's history, with the state government contributing \$89 million, supported with a further \$45 million invested in equal parts by QUT, UQ and the TRI.

Another initiative that is being undertaken by the Palaszczuk government involves encouraging doctors at the start of their careers to undertake research projects by setting up a \$5 million fund to allow junior doctors to do detailed research projects. Under the first round, four young doctors will be awarded fellowships of up to \$500,000 each to undertake specific research under the guidance of a highly experienced senior clinical research fellow. Queensland already has a strong research culture, but this initiative is about extending and encouraging that culture, especially among doctors who are just starting their careers. They are among the best and brightest and we want to encourage them to undertake research throughout their entire careers. Taken together, these two initiatives show that we are serious about encouraging Queensland's flourishing research culture in Health.