




Speech By
Hon. Cameron Dick

MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Cardiac Rehabilitation Programs

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (9.49 am): In an era when the Queensland health system will come under pressure because of projected funding cuts from the federal government, it is important that we make our hospitals as efficient as possible to help Queenslanders avoid admission and readmission to hospital. In that light, earlier in November, along with the member for Greenslopes, I launched an initiative to help people who have suffered a heart attack or angina.

In Queensland, about 33,000 people a year are admitted to hospital suffering from heart attack or angina. The cost to the Queensland healthcare system of coronary vascular disease is estimated to be \$1.2 billion a year. We know that one-third of these are repeat heart attacks that possibly could have been prevented with cardiac rehabilitation. That is why the Palaszczuk Labor government is investing \$5 million this financial year to get more patients into cardiac rehabilitation programs after their heart attack.

Cardiac rehabilitation can reduce readmission to hospital within the first year by as much as 45 per cent. It can also reduce the chance of death within the first year by as much as 25 per cent. This program will provide an incentive for our hospital and health services to implement the right systems to boost referrals to cardiac rehabilitation services and ensure that more patients can and do attend these services.

These programs have been developed in partnership with the Heart Foundation. I thank the Heart Foundation for their involvement and contribution. These programs aim to help people with heart disease return to a full, active and satisfying life as quickly as possible. The program focuses on heart disease, providing tailored exercise programs and encouraging healthy eating and lifestyle choices. By boosting cardiac rehabilitation participation, we can help ensure every person who survives a heart attack in our state can access the support they need.