




Speech By
Grace Grace

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

Record of Proceedings, 21 May 2015

PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital, Maternity Services

 **Ms GRACE** (Brisbane Central—ALP) (3.25 pm): Last week I was lucky enough to accompany the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services to the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital for the launch of a new model of maternity care. This model will provide women with continuity of care throughout their entire pregnancy by simply providing the option of a personal private practising midwife at the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital. Women who are booked to give birth at the RBWH can be admitted as a private patient to be cared for by their chosen midwife for labour and birth as well as for their antenatal and postnatal care. Importantly, this innovative model of maternity care is woman focused and provides high levels of satisfaction for our future mums.

RBWH currently has several eligible private practice midwives accredited with full visiting access who go through a detailed qualification process, with consultation and referral guidelines in place to ensure any complications that arise during the pregnancy are referred to RBWH for specialist treatment. At all stages of the woman's journey RBWH midwives will provide support and care in the event that medical conditions arise. Therefore, all expecting mums are fully cared for at the great RBWH.

The first phase of the model of care was implemented in 2013, and in November 2014 the model expanded to include labour and birth care by the private midwife to a private patient. This model is all about giving pregnant women the choice of their midwife. The new model allows mums at the RBWH one-on-one antenatal care with a private midwife who visits them at home. We heard firsthand from a mum and a family who have used the program, complimenting it as a far superior continuity-of-care model in a great public hospital facility.

Over the past few weeks I have had cause to visit the RBWH on a few occasions, purely as a visiting MP. I just remind members about the professional job carried out by all health workers at this great hospital. It must be said that we would be hard-pressed to find a more dedicated, hardworking, compassionate group of people than the staff at our health services, not only at the RBWH but also at all hospital and health services throughout Queensland.

I compliment the hospital on delivering this great initiative. My thanks go to all of those hardworking nurses and midwives in the executive area of the hospital who made this happen. This is a good initiative for expectant mums. It will be a great model that will give them continuity of care. We will provide safety for patients. I am also looking forward to all of the new nursing positions that we hope to have at the RBWH.