




Speech By
Mark Ryan

MEMBER FOR MORAYFIELD

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ADJOURNMENT

Moreton Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Health Service

 **Mr RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (10.29 pm): There was a huge crowd at last week's official opening of the expanded Moreton Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Health Service at Morayfield. Under the auspice of the Institute for Urban Indigenous Health, the Morayfield primary healthcare clinic is leading the way in helping Indigenous Queenslanders achieve better health outcomes.

At the outset, I thank the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services for taking the time to attend the official opening and Adrian Carson, the CEO of the Institute for Urban Indigenous Health, his talented team, the great staff of the Morayfield primary healthcare clinic, the wonderful supporters and clients of the clinic, and Rugby League legend Steve Renouf for their great support of the clinic. It was great to have Steve there as the MC for the official opening and to catch up with him about his life after Rugby League.

I am proud to say that the Morayfield state electorate is home to one of the many Institute for Urban Indigenous Health's regional multidisciplinary primary health clinics dedicated to delivering better health outcomes for our community. This is important because not only does over one-third of Queensland's Indigenous population live in South-East Queensland but we know that the early intervention and prevention work provided by primary healthcare clinics has a big impact on people's quality of life and reducing future health costs. There is still more to do, and I welcome the Queensland government's support for primary healthcare strategies.

The Queensland Labor government provided over \$900,000 to the Institute for Urban Indigenous Health to assist with the construction of the expanded facilities at the Morayfield clinic. The expanded facilities include additional consultation rooms, dental chairs, optometry spaces as well as a dedicated gym area set up specifically to target obesity and other chronic diseases through a structured physical activity and nutrition program. Judging by the smiles on the faces of some of the loyal clients of the clinic's Work it Out group, the gym is a very popular addition to the clinic's offerings.

In further good news for the institute, the health minister came bearing a surprise gift: the news that the Queensland Labor government would reverse cuts in funding by the former Newman government for Indigenous health by reinstating core funding of \$1.2 million over three years for the Institute for Urban Indigenous Health. The reinstatement of the full funding for the institute, which had been cut by the former Newman government, will allow the institute to substantially enhance its primary healthcare work and contribute to other work that is being done to close the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Queenslanders.

Well done again to Adrian Carson and his team. Thank you to the health minister for his good support.