




Speech By
Peter Russo

MEMBER FOR SUNNYBANK

Record of Proceedings, 7 May 2015

PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Care Flight

 **Mr RUSSO** (Sunnybank—ALP) (2.39 pm): On 28 April 2015 the Premier, Anastacia Palaszczuk, and the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services, Cameron Dick, made a great announcement for the electorate of Sunnybank. The suburb of Archerfield and, therefore, Archerfield Airport, is very much in my electorate. It is a hive of activity, a place where flight schools conduct flying lessons and where people from all over the world come to obtain their commercial flying licence. Indeed, my eldest son, James, is currently undertaking his flying lessons at an Archerfield flight school called Basair.

The announcement that the Palaszczuk Labor government made on that day is in keeping with our policy in relation to the creation of jobs and services. The Premier announced the continued support of CareFlight, with a three-year extension of the staffing services contract worth some \$56 million over three years for a service that is essentially one for the people of the bush. The Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services stated that this contract will allow CareFlight to continue to recruit and employ their own doctors and critical care staff to provide critical care and support to sick, ill and injured Queenslanders, including Queenslanders who need to be transported from rural and remote parts of our state. This announcement will take pressure off our public health system as we will not have to provide staff from emergency departments for medical retrieval missions as has been happening in the past. It will allow CareFlight to get on with their important work.

Last year alone over 4,000 Queenslanders needed urgent assistance from CareFlight retrieval medical doctors. That equates to more than 10 patients every day. CareFlight provides world-leading retrieval medical services and specialises in the recruitment, training and provision of front-line critical care doctors. On this occasion the Premier said she had firsthand experience and, having seen the drought affected areas of Western Queensland, that the CareFlight service is an essential service for the people of the bush. That shows that the Premier is in touch with the people of Queensland. I am honoured to hear of this announcement for my electorate.