




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR SANDGATE

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MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Eventide

 **Mr HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (12.38 pm): Last Wednesday saw something that my local community has been waiting to experience for almost three years: our state's health minister visiting the historic Eventide residential aged-care facility at Brighton and actively seeking to engage with those people who had been bypassed and ignored by the former minister and the Newman government. On behalf of those people, I thank the Minister for Health, the Hon. Cameron Dick, not only for visiting the Brighton Health Campus but also for meeting with many passionately interested stakeholders who had been blocked and locked out from engaging on Eventide's future.

Stakeholders involved in the meeting included residents themselves, their family members, the families of former residents, current and former volunteers, current and former staff and representatives of their unions—the Queensland Nurses Union and the Australian Workers Union. It was great to see the Queensland state secretary for the AWU, Ben Swan, attend. Both Wayne Swan, the federal member for Lilley, and Councillor Victoria Newton, Brisbane's Deagon ward councillor, have lent tremendous support to the community through working with the Save Eventide campaign. While Mr Swan was not able to be there in person on that occasion, his commitment was acknowledged by many present. It was also good to have the most senior representatives of the Metro North Hospital and Health Service attend the meeting to hear from the stakeholders face to face. The chair of the metro north board, Dr Paul Alexander, and the acting chief executive, Mr Terry Mehan, attended not only to proudly show the minister and I the great work being done in transition, care and rehabilitation in Dolphin House and other parts of the campus but also to listen and respond to the concerns of those at the meeting.

The meeting was the first step in honouring Labor's commitment to delivering long-term residential care at Brighton in a manner that responds to the future and not one that harks to a lost past. It is impossible for us to recreate those things that have been broken, but it is important that we value the traditions of the past and make sure that we see a bright future for current residents and those who might need residential care in the future. The minister's meeting reiterated that Labor is committed to engaging with and working alongside Eventide residents, their families, staff, volunteers and the neighbouring community to determine not only the details of future residential care but also the shape of the whole site into the future. I emphasise the importance of community consultation to enable the facilities to move forward. I believe that we must take this opportunity to look forward and develop a shared vision for the site and its role in providing for the needs of our community, especially our elderly.

At the meeting, stakeholders raised many concerns and it was clear that there are many issues to be grappled with as we go forward. I do not have time to raise them all, but I will acknowledge one. One of the attendees at the meeting, Ms Holly Holden, a representative of the Save Eventide family group, voiced support for changing the facility's official name back to Eventide, which would

acknowledge that this is not merely a symbolic gesture. It is clear that, to many of the stakeholders, the name Eventide holds a special significance to the community and represents the care delivered to all residents. I must say, it did seem like the previous government's attempt to obliterate that name was about trying to obliterate an issue that was of concern to it. Holly and other stakeholders appreciated the minister's statement at the meeting that he had an open mind on the mix of services to be provided there, but that any solution would need to consider the best use of limited financial resources. Since last Wednesday, many of the people who had the opportunity to be part of the meeting have continued to express their appreciation that the minister and the metro north leaders attended and listened to them.

I am passionate about the tremendous services provided for the community at this beautiful and restorative location by the sea at Brighton. I am confident that with the support of the Minister for Health and in concert with the Metro North Hospital and Health Service, we can all work together not only to develop a vision for the future but also to give reassurance of practical delivery for our most vulnerable elderly.

(Time expired)