



Speech By  
**Hon. Cameron Dick**


**MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE**

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Record of Proceedings, 23 February 2016

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**Integrated Care Innovation Fund**

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (9.50 am): Queensland is facing a significant increase in chronic disease in the coming decade. With federal funding cuts, an ageing population, workforce pressures and unacceptable inequities in health access to services, Queensland's health system faces significant challenges. To mitigate these challenges we need more efficiency, less waste and better outcomes from the system. The Palaszczuk government's \$35 million Integrated Care Innovation Fund, announced by me recently, is an initiative to do just that. We want patients to be able to move quickly and seamlessly between necessary health services, be they primary, specialised, rehabilitation, acute care or hospital services. We want to harness the knowledge of those working at the interface of hospital and community health care. We want to strengthen the relationships between state hospital and health services and primary health networks established by the Commonwealth government.

We have invited hospital and health services across Queensland to apply for financial support for innovative projects that deliver better integration of care, address fragmentation in services and provide high-value health care. We are particularly keen on applications that support partnerships with primary health networks and other community health providers. We are looking for projects that are locally innovative, rather than an extension of existing services, and that will address existing gaps or issues in service delivery in a new way. Bids will be selected after a formal evaluation by the department's selection committee.

The Integrated Care Innovation Fund will provide financial support to approved initiatives over two years, starting in the middle of this year, with ongoing monitoring and evaluation. Better health integration means better health care for all Queenslanders.