



Speech By  
**Hon. Cameron Dick**


**MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE**

---

Record of Proceedings, 15 March 2016

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS**

**Princess Alexandra Hospital, Digitisation**

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (9.49 am): As honourable members will be aware, I have spoken frequently about the problems facing our health system in the face of reduced Commonwealth funding and an ageing and growing population. That means we will need to work smarter in our health system. I am delighted to inform the House that, in line with this drive to have a smarter health system, the Princess Alexandra Hospital in Brisbane has become Australia's first digital public hospital. In practice, this means the end to paperwork at the PA Hospital. Patient details will be entered into an electronic system and the entire patient journey will be monitored electronically. The whole notion of paperwork at the Princess Alexandra Hospital will become a thing of the past with paper records being replaced by digital records.

The full digitisation of the Princess Alexandra Hospital, an information technology project delivered successfully by a Labor government, is based in the electorate of the Deputy Premier and member for South Brisbane, who joined me for the announcement last Friday. It is a significant achievement for Queensland and, in fact, Queensland has led the nation in the implementation of this IT project. It is innovation, it is smart investment and it is smart implementation.

**Mr Bleijie** interjected.

**Mr DICK:** I take the interjection from the member for Kawana. This is a Labor government that is leading the nation with health information technology systems. While one small private hospital in Australia is digitised, the Princess Alexandra Hospital is the first public hospital in Australia to be fully digitised and to achieve that status. It is one of the largest hospitals in Queensland and it is one of the top five hospitals in Australia and the project has been successfully implemented and executed by a Labor government.

The transformation of the Princess Alexandra Hospital is the first part of a four-year \$200 million investment that will deliver this robust IT project to other hospitals across Queensland, in line with our eHealth Investment Strategy. Ours is the only government to implement an eHealth Investment Strategy. At the Princess Alexandra Hospital, we have been very keen to get this right. More than 100 simulations and dress rehearsals were held before the switch to digital records to ensure staff were well prepared to deal with new work flows, with more than 1,600 new digital devices integrated across the hospital. Going digital makes real-time patient information securely and instantly available to staff wherever they are in the hospital. This means staff can now spend less time shuffling paperwork and more time at the front line. Most importantly, it means an improvement in the quality of care by reducing errors and variations in care processes. The end result is better care for patients and faster treatment to get them home sooner.

The staff at the Princess Alexandra Hospital have led this project. They have enthusiastically risen to the challenge of going digital and I thank them for their commitment to this project. More than 5,500 staff were trained in the new system, representing a total of 32,000 staff hours. This is an excellent investment in Queensland Health and in Queensland Health staff that will be returned many times over in the years to come. The Palaszczuk Labor government will continue to drive innovation in our state's health sector to deliver better health outcomes for Queenslanders.