




Speech By
Hon. Cameron Dick

MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Advance Queensland Research Fellowship Recipients

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (9.46 am): The Palaszczuk government is throwing its weight behind very promising Queensland medical research. In April, the Minister for Innovation, Science and the Digital Economy announced 54 Queensland scientists and researchers who were to receive more the \$10 million through the Advance Queensland research fellowships and PhD scholarships program.

Today I am pleased to provide the House with an update on some of the Advance Queensland recipients who are working within Queensland Health. Immunologist Dr Paul Giacomini from the Australian Institute of Tropical Health and Medicine at James Cook University in Cairns has been awarded a \$300,000 Advance Queensland research fellowship for his work on coeliac disease. Dr Giacomini and his team recently conducted a human trial at the Prince Charles Hospital in Brisbane where they infected a small group of coeliac patients with parasitic hookworms. The trial produced promising results, and Dr Giacomini and his team hope to use the Advance Queensland fellowship to produce a pill that will be more palatable to patients than the idea of being infected with worms.

Other recipients include Dr Anjali Jaiprakash, who is working on developing a robotic leg-holding device, making keyhole surgery easier and safer. Dr Natassia Goode from the University of the Sunshine Coast is finding ways to improve medication protocols in Queensland hospitals. While Mr Eric Wu from the University of Queensland is developing a 'smart' heart assist device. Ms Rebecca Stockwell from the University of Queensland has received funding to support her research into the spread of airborne diseases in hospitals through coughing.

We already have world-renowned medical researchers in Queensland, and this funding will help ensure they can take their research out of the lab and turn it into a commercially viable product. The result of this will not only provide an important boost to the state economy and create jobs but also significantly improve health outcomes for Queenslanders.

Next week I will be launching the second round of Queensland Health's new junior doctor research fellowships. These are our future senior researchers who will continue to pioneer medical research and cement Queensland's place as a leading medical research state. The junior doctor research fellowships provide unique training and development opportunities for junior doctors in Queensland to create exciting career pathways and encourage ongoing innovative research. This research funding is on top of the Palaszczuk government's \$35 million Integrated Care Innovation Fund. We want to harness the knowledge of those working in hospital and community healthcare settings to develop ways to overcome the many challenges of our health system. By encouraging change from the grassroots, we can implement lasting change.