



Speech By  
**Hon. Cameron Dick**


**MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE**

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Record of Proceedings, 9 November 2016

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS**

**Biotechnology, Admedus**

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (2.15 pm): Queensland is on the move and clearly becoming an in-demand destination for health and biotechnology companies, both regionally and globally. They want to invest and innovate here due to our talented people, infrastructure, regulatory environment, hospitals and our world-class academic and research institutions. The government's \$405 million Advance Queensland initiative is at the heart of our economic program to create the knowledge industries and jobs of the future. Advance Queensland and its programs will help drive innovation in our state, build on our natural advantages and raise Queensland's profile as an attractive investment destination and solution finder for the global healthcare challenges we all face. Indeed, Advance Queensland is helping to bring jobs and business opportunities to Queensland.

Today I was delighted to open Admedus's new office in Brisbane. Admedus is an Australian based ASX listed company that has a global profile in tissue engineering, immunotherapies and biomanufacturing. The fact that Admedus has relocated its global corporate functions of finance, human resources, information technology, customer service and logistics from Perth to Brisbane demonstrates a high level of confidence in Queensland. On my recent trade mission I attended the opening of the new Admedus office in Minneapolis, Minnesota. It was very gratifying to see the international expansion of a successful Australian based company. The relationships we are developing will strengthen the links between the products being developed by Admedus and research work being undertaken in Queensland. Admedus works with Queensland's research trailblazers, such as Professor Ian Frazer and his team in the areas of herpes simplex virus 2 and the human papillomavirus, HPV. The work of Western Australian based Professor Leon Neethling and his team is another shining example of the kind of work we can expect Admedus to support. Their collaboration has already progressed groundbreaking vascular technology research. This has given hope to patients across the globe with congenital heart defects and related issues. Here in Brisbane alone this research has been used to improve the lives of nearly 400 Queensland children at the Mater hospital.

Relationships like these are paving the way forward for Queensland and bolstering our state's growing reputation as an innovative hub for medical research. Importantly, these relationships are bringing business opportunities and jobs to our state. The biomedical and life sciences sector in Queensland has a total expenditure of around \$2.85 billion and exported approximately \$275 million of products and services in 2014-15. These figures suggest a world of opportunity awaits our state as we join with Admedus to further explore and capitalise on the biotech market, opportunities which are sure to benefit Queenslanders.