



Speech By  
**Bruce Saunders**


**MEMBER FOR MARYBOROUGH**

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**ADJOURNMENT**

**Maryborough Hospital**

 **Mr SAUNDERS** (Maryborough—ALP) (5.45 pm): I rise tonight to talk about the \$10 million health boost from the Palaszczuk government to upgrade the A&E at my local hospital. I would like to thank the member for Woodridge, the health minister. Maryborough Hospital services a lot of the outlying areas and some of the smaller communities in the electorate. This is great news. This is the Palaszczuk government putting Queenslanders first, putting money back into regional hospitals.

The \$10 million will improve services for people in Maryborough with the addition of a full CT scanner and a brand-new entrance for ambulances. Currently ambulances cannot back into the Maryborough Hospital to unload sick patients. If it is raining they will get wet and if it is hot, the sun shines down on them. This great announcement by the health minister and the Treasurer of \$10 million in the budget will make the A&E one of the best in regional Queensland. It is really good for the older people in my community and for the rural people in my community.

One of the important things about this is that Maryborough is so close to the highway. There are a lot of accidents from Gympie right through to Gin Gin. Having this upgrade to the A&E delivered by the Palaszczuk government—putting Queenslanders first—makes us feel a bit soft in the heart because we know if there is a major accident on the highway we will have one of the best A&Es to cater for those patients.

Let's look at what has happened at the Maryborough Hospital since the Palaszczuk government was elected. We have refurbished areas of the hospital such as the electrical services and the lifts. We have reinstated pathology that was cut by the previous government. It has been a big boost for the Maryborough Hospital to have the pathology services back. This will work hand in hand with the new A&E and also with the specialist outpatients refurbishment. The hospital is going to look completely different. It is great news.

I would also like to thank Adrian Pennington of the Wide Bay HHS and the board who have worked tirelessly with the minister, the government and me to achieve this for the community. This is what the Palaszczuk government does. We hear the stories that we are a do-nothing government. This A&E upgrade is absolutely fantastic for the Maryborough community. It is something that is well overdue and something that a lot of people have campaigned for. Since I was elected one of the major things that I wanted to do is to make sure that the people of Maryborough have the same health care as anybody anywhere in Queensland. It took a Palaszczuk government to make sure that the people of Maryborough city and surrounds have the same quality of health care as those throughout regional Queensland or in larger cities. I would like to thank the health minister, the member for Woodridge, for the great job he has done in the Maryborough Hospital.