



Speech By  
**Hon. Cameron Dick**


**MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE**

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital**

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (2.18 pm): It was a very great honour to join the Premier and my ministerial colleagues the members for Stafford and Brisbane Central to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital earlier today. As the son of a midwife who worked at the Royal, I know just how hard everyone at the RBWH works to care for some of the most vulnerable in our community. Today we celebrate their vital role in delivering life-saving treatment, compassionate care and world-leading research opportunities. This great hospital has been instrumental in saving lives not just in Australia but also around the world through pioneering medical research, education and training.

There probably is not a family across our state who does not know someone who has worked at the Royal or who has not benefited from the highly specialised care at the RBWH, and that has been the case for a century and a half. The RBWH is a hospital steeped in history since the very beginning; a hospital that has grown with Queensland. The hospital of 1867 was a far cry from today's bustling hub. Back then, only a handful of doctors and eight nurses were treating a few thousand patients a year. The RBWH has played a crucial role in shaping the history of Queensland and the moments that have shaped our state. In times of war to tending to those affected by the 2011 Queensland floods through to caring for burns victims of the Bali bombings and the Ravenshoe cafe explosion, this hospital has played an invaluable role in caring for Queenslanders when some of the biggest tragedies to rock our state unfolded.

Major events aside, on a daily basis all of the 6,000 exceptional staff who work at the RBWH provide world-class care to well over 500,000 patients annually, many treated in some of the nearly 1,000 beds at the Royal. The quality of care this hospital provides extends far beyond Brisbane. The RBWH is also the largest provider of telehealth in the state, connecting many patients across Queensland to the very best medical care. The RBWH pioneered health care in this country and, since its establishment, has continued to raise the bar in healthcare delivery. Institutions such as the RBWH embody the very best in our society. It serves as a beacon of hope in a time of greatest need. It does not discriminate or judge. It serves all Queenslanders on their journey through life, helping to start and save lives. Happy 150th birthday, Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital.