




Speech By
Hon. Cameron Dick

MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE

Record of Proceedings, 2 March 2017

ADJOURNMENT

Access Migrant and Refugee Health Strategy

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (10.01 pm): Australia has a long and proud tradition of multiculturalism and can list among its proudest achievements the fact that our nation is a safe haven for people from all around the world. The electorate of Woodridge and the City of Logan are home to refugees and migrants from more than 200 nations across the globe, and our community is richer for it. That is why I was so pleased to join CEO Gail Ker from Access Group International, Logan City Council Deputy Mayor Cherie Dalley and her fellow councillors Jon Raven and Russell Lutton to launch the Access Migrant and Refugee Health Strategy in Logan last month.

Access is an outstanding organisation, working tirelessly to provide assistance and support for our newest Queenslanders through settlement, employment, training, housing and social enterprise opportunities. The not-for-profit group has helped develop the Queensland Health statewide Refugee Health and Wellbeing: A strategic framework for Queensland, which I launched in March last year.

Many migrants and, in particular, refugees have survived torture, endured conflict zones and have lived in refugee camps for very long periods of time before settling in Logan. This new strategy recognises the barriers to accessing health services and supports, including cultural barriers such as language, traditional roles and cultural norms. Indeed, connecting health care is one of the four directions under Advancing Health 2026—our vision that by 2026 Queenslanders will be among the healthiest people in the world. This strategy means a great deal to me as both the Minister for Health and the member for Woodridge.

Logan is one of the most multicultural cities in Australia. Our community is built upon Australia's catch-cry of 'a fair go for all'. It is upon that ideal that we have built a country that is the envy of the world. Regrettably, the rise of One Nation puts that reputation at real risk. The One Nation party is fond of wrapping itself in the flag, yet the agenda it pursues will fundamentally change what that flag represents. We must stand united against the corrosive politics of intolerance and division that works to undermine our social cohesion and which seeks to exploit fear and anxiety. It is about time the Queensland Liberal National Party considered this as they seek to strike a dirty deal with One Nation for preferences and votes.