




Speech By
Hon. Cameron Dick

MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE

Record of Proceedings, 22 August 2017

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Health, Biotechnology

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (10.11 am): Under the Palaszczuk Labor government, Queensland is becoming an in-demand destination for health and biotechnology companies, both regionally and globally. Queensland is already reaping the rewards of Queensland Health's eHealth Investment Strategy as the digital revolution in health care sweeps the world. The strategy identifies future information and communications technology requirements over the next 20 years to ensure our state's health system can continue to provide essential services to Queenslanders. We estimate approximately 1,000 jobs will be created with the progression and implementation of the eHealth initiatives detailed in the strategy. This strategy sits hand in hand with our government's Specialist Outpatient Strategy. Since it began, the Specialist Outpatient Strategy has funded more than 3,800 additional telehealth services across 29 facilities. From Cunnamulla to the cape, from the bush to the tropics, telehealth services enable Queenslanders to access high-quality health care wherever they live in our great state.

Investment in emerging technologies like genomics is also creating jobs in our state. I was delighted to welcome Chinese life sciences giant BGI to Queensland last year. This innovative and cutting-edge organisation has decided to set up its Asia-Pacific headquarters in Brisbane at the QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute, creating jobs in an area that 10 years ago was unknown to most Queenslanders. Furthermore, the Palaszczuk government through Queensland Health is investing \$25 million in the Queensland Genomics Health Alliance. This is an investment in jobs and also an investment that will potentially result in better health outcomes for Queenslanders. Last week I had the pleasure of opening a new genomics centre at the Princess Alexandra Hospital. A Queensland first and one of the largest programs of its kind in Australasia, the Australian Translational Genomics Centre will lead to better treatment outcomes with potentially fewer side effects and better survival rates for patients with cancer. Our government is ensuring we are developing solutions to improve health outcomes. Queenslanders can be confident that the Palaszczuk Labor government is investing today to meet the challenges of tomorrow.