




Speech By
Hon. Cameron Dick

MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE

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ADJOURNMENT

Logan, Community Maternity Services

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (6.51 pm): While much of what occurs in this chamber is subject to contest and debate, one thing that all members can agree on is that Queensland children deserve the best start in life. As the member for Woodridge and the Minister for Health, I am well aware that some health outcomes for mothers and their children in the city of Logan are significantly poorer than the state average. On average, in Logan pregnant women are not attending the recommended number of antenatal appointments, which is why maternity is a focus of the \$10 Logan Community Health Action Plan, which I launched in May.

In 2014-15, while 10 per cent of Queensland mothers smoked later than 20 weeks of pregnancy, in Logan that rate is 15 per cent, with the rate in some parts of the Logan community being as high as 27 per cent. In certain areas of Logan, the rate of low birth weight babies is more than twice the state average of seven per cent. It beggars belief that the Newman LNP government chose this community from which to sack 11.5 full-time-equivalent midwives. As a result of those LNP sackings, community maternity services across the city of Logan were shut down.

We know that there is a strong correlation between access to antenatal care and improved health outcomes for mums and bubs. That is why the Palaszczuk government will invest \$3 million annually to roll out three new maternity hubs in Logan. Last week, I joined with the member for Logan, Linus Power, who is in the chamber tonight, to visit the Browns Plains early learning centre, which is situated at the Browns Plains Community Health Centre in Hillcrest and which will soon be home to one of these maternity hubs. I want to thank Linus for campaigning on this issue with me and the member for Waterford, Shannon Fentiman, during the 2015 election campaign. I am delighted that the Palaszczuk Labor government has kept its promise by delivering these community maternity services to our city of Logan.

Two other hubs will be based at the Access Gateway centre in Logan Central and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community health service in Waterford West. These three hubs will be staffed by a midwifery unit manager and six midwives, with the number of midwives growing to 12 in three years. These midwives are new appointments—additional midwives being recruited to the Metro South Hospital and Health Service after the LNP sacked 226 nurses and midwives across Metro South when it was in government. As the member for Woodridge, I know that these community maternity services will be not only welcomed by my Logan community but also make a real and genuine difference.