Speech By

Hon. Cameron Dick

MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Biofabrication

Hon. CR DICK (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (2.17 pm): The Palaszczuk government is welcoming innovation and new technology across Queensland. Nowhere is that more evident than in the area of health. Biofabrication is an example of innovation at its best. Queensland will lead the biofabrication revolution, with a new institute opening in 2018. The Metro North Hospital and Health Service and the Queensland University of Technology have partnered to create the hospital of the future, with a new Biofabrication Institute at the world-class Herston Health Precinct. It will be Australia's first research institute manufacturing human organs, bones and tissue using advanced technology, including 3D printing and robotics. This new technology has the potential to revolutionise treatment options for patients in the future.

The institute will revolutionise modern medicine, saving lives not just in Queensland but also around the world. The institute will catapult Queensland onto the global stage as a leader in medical innovation and technology that will change the face of health care. It will bring together up to 60 clinicians, scientists, researchers and engineers to focus on developing next generation fabrication technologies. The vision for health care is that the Biofabrication Institute will open the way for 3D printers to sit in operating theatres, ready to print tissue and prosthetics as needed in our hospitals of the future.

This new dawn in health care is already breaking in Queensland. We are already starting to see the benefits of this type of innovation in our hospitals. Last month, in a world-first, surgeons at Princess Alexandra Hospital transplanted a 3D printed shinbone into a patient. Reuben Lichter had the procedure after developing an infection of the bone which resulted in the majority of his shinbone being destroyed. Conventional treatment for Mr Lichter's condition was an above-knee amputation. However, plastic surgeon Dr Michael Wagels and his team were able to save the leg by inserting a 3D printed model wrapped in biological tissue in an effort to engineer new bone.

Innovative and groundbreaking treatments and technologies such as this world-first surgery offer new hope for Queensland patients. Queensland Health leads the nation and the world in so many ways and this is yet another example of Queensland innovation at its best. The benefits of a strong and innovative health industry flow across the state both in economic terms and for our own health and wellbeing. These advances will lead to lower health costs, improved access to better treatments and, significantly, better health outcomes for individuals and society. The Queensland hospitals of our future are becoming the Queensland hospitals of today.