




Speech By
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ADJOURNMENT

The Great White Campaign

 **Mr JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (11.20 pm): Tonight I rise to speak about a campaign near to the hearts of many in Toowoomba. The campaign is called the Great White Campaign and it is named in honour of Braydon 'The Great White' Smith, a young Toowoomba boxer whose life was tragically cut short in March 2015 after completing a title bout. Braydon was a young man with extraordinary promise. He was a beloved son, brother, grandson and boyfriend, a law student and an exemplary community role model. He came from a legendary Darling Downs family. His grandfather claimed 140 wins in 144 amateur fights. His dad, Brendon, is a renowned trainer and operates Smithy's Gym in Toowoomba. It is a world-class boxing and fitness facility that is frequented by many of our city's fittest men and women.

Toowoomba is the health services hub for South-West Queensland, extending to the New South Wales and territory borders. However, there are gaps in that service delivery, a part of which the Great White Campaign seeks to reduce. Their unwavering goal is to bring a neurosurgical unit to Toowoomba. At the moment, the only Queensland neurological centres are located in Townsville, the Gold Coast and Brisbane. This leaves vast areas west of the Great Dividing Range without specialist neurosurgical services. In the case of head trauma, that leaves patients hours away from urgent and potentially life-saving specialist medical intervention.

The Great White Campaign team, chaired by Councillor James O'Shea, understands that it will be a long journey to achieve their goal. However, like the Smith family, the campaign team and the member for Toowoomba North, Trevor Watts, I believe that Toowoomba deserves the finest health facilities, including a neurosurgical unit. We will all be fighting to achieve it, no matter how long it may take.

The Great White Campaign continues to quietly build momentum. It is now aligned with the Rural Doctors Association of Queensland Foundation and Rotary Edge, which is part of the Rotary Club of Toowoomba South of which Braydon's aunty Tressa Lindenberg is a member. The Chairman of the Darling Downs Hospital and Health Services Board, Mike Horan; his CEO, Dr Peter Gillies; and their staff continue to deliver a world-class health service and continue to push for ever-more resources so that they can provide even broader health services on the Darling Downs.

We need to continue to reduce the gap in health outcomes between rural and regional and metropolitan Queensland. We need to continue to grow the capacity of health services for the men, women and children who live on the Darling Downs. We need to continue to honour the legacy of a fine young man, Braydon 'The Great White' Smith, taken far too soon from his loved ones and from his community.