




Speech By
Fiona Simpson

MEMBER FOR MAROOCHYDORE

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ADJOURNMENT

Sunshine Coast, Health Services

 **Ms SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (8.32 pm): There are 10,000 reasons to celebrate our new Sunshine Coast university public hospital and it is time to celebrate. Our new tertiary-level hospital opens on the Sunshine Coast in a few weeks. Each year it will save 10,000 patient trips to Brisbane to access services.

What is so special about a new \$1.8 billion hospital? When fully opened over the next few months it will mean that, for the first time, the Sunshine Coast will have child and adolescent mental health in-patient services; neonatal services to care for lower birth weight newborn babies; tertiary rehabilitation services for patients with spinal cord injuries, brain injuries or other major trauma; and radiation oncology. We already have public access to radiation oncology through private sector contracts, which is something I have fought for over the years. I am pleased that I could contribute to the provision of those services, never knowing that my own family would have to access them. For the first time, radiation oncology will be delivered directly through our public hospital. Other services that will be provided include nuclear medicine services, CT angiography and enhanced trauma services. This is a wonderful expansion of services, but it also means that an expanded workforce will bring flow-on benefits to an expanding and deepening economy as higher level specialties deliver services to people closer to home.

Also flagged is the expansion of Dove Cottage at Caloundra Hospital from 10 to 20 beds, which I strongly support. On the Sunshine Coast we have amazing health workers. In particular, I send a shout-out to the palliative specialist team. The Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service's Specialist Palliative Care Service is a multidisciplinary team that provides specialist support for people who have a life-limiting illness, their families and carers. The best advice I have received from some of my palliative-nursing friends is that if you or a loved one is facing a terminal illness, do not hesitate to reach out to specialist services. Ask the GP for a referral and find out what is available. Many amazing, caring and very skilled people deliver those services and, most importantly, they can coordinate and link in with at-home help and sometimes, when it is needed, in-hospital help and, in a case such as I just mentioned, in-hospice help such as is available through Dove Cottage. It surprises me that many good GPs do not always realise how early they can get people into such services and have them appropriately assessed. At the end of the day, from the cradle through to end of life, everyone needs to know that they can access the best care. We advocate to ensure that they get that care.