



Speech By
Linus Power

MEMBER FOR LOGAN

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ADJOURNMENT

Logan, Midwifery Services

 **Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (6.32 pm): Eleven years ago this month my wife, Jacki, and I were anticipating the birth of our first child. We dutifully trekked in to do special classes and learn all we could about becoming parents. As you would expect, we were very nervous. We hoped that our future son's health was perfect, but as this was our first time we did not know. My mother and mother-in-law were a great help when it came to reassurance, but we turned to the experts. Midwives were simply amazing, ensuring we were on the right track. We knew that if we were to have problems or our baby was at risk then the midwives were there for us. They were there for Jack's birth and they were there after. Jacki and I were lucky—our kids were healthy—but it was great to get that reassurance.

There is clear evidence that midwives being actively involved with expectant mothers, and both mother and baby after the birth, get better results for both the mum and the bub. That is why, when I was candidate for election in 2015, I was so angry that the then Newman-Nicholls government cut the community midwifery service at the Crestmead Community Centre and the Logan West health centre.

The suburbs of Park Ridge, Regents Park and Boronia Heights are some distance from Logan Hospital. If your partner is away with the car, it is a long journey on the 560 bus to the Logan Hospital. It should be noted that the LNP also reduced the number of 560 bus services, making it more difficult. If your appointment ran late, you would have no way of getting home—all thanks to the LNP.

As a member of parliament, at every opportunity I have raised the issue of restoring these services. I have brought it up with the minister, with Logan metro health and with virtually everyone I meet on the streets. The health minister was really supportive. He said that this was something we had to do. Together we worked hard, knowing that there are benefits for Logan mothers, especially those who are vulnerable and need extra attention.

Health minister Cameron Dick also highlighted that expectant mothers in Logan were not connecting at as high a rate as the rest of Queensland. That is why I am so pleased the Minister for Health announced today that the government would invest an extra \$2 million annually as part of a midwifery group service model of care and that the midwives will be based at community centres that will be announced in consultation with the local community. I, along with the member for Waterford, the member for Algester and the health minister, fought to restore these services that were cut so badly by the LNP.

There is so much more to do to restore some of the services to work to improve our growing area. I am committed to being on the side of locals in Logan, fighting for the services they need and to ensure they are never cut again.