



Speech By  
**Barry O'Rourke**


**MEMBER FOR ROCKHAMPTON**

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Record of Proceedings, 15 November 2018

**PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT**

**Central Queensland Hospital and Health Service**

 **Mr O'ROURKE** (Rockhampton—ALP) (2.18 pm): I have read the Central Queensland Hospital and Health Service's annual report for 2017-18 and I wanted to acknowledge the great work of the Central Queensland Health staff. I will also include some of the comments made by the CEO, Steve Williamson.

The Central Queensland Hospital and Health Service's district has a service footprint that is almost twice the size of Victoria, stretching from west of Emerald to the Gladstone coastline and from Theodore to the Capricorn Coast. The 3,700 CQ Health staff deliver truly great service, covering all parts of Central Queensland, improving the lives of hundreds of thousands of Central Queenslanders every year. CQ Health staff delivered more surgery and more outpatient appointments; treated more people in emergency departments; delivered more telehealth appointments and more BreastScreens; and additional services were also delivered on time.

On 30 June 2018 no patient was waiting longer than clinically recommended for surgery, outpatient appointments, scope procedures or oral health appointments, and the emergency department achieved the benchmark of 80 per cent for patients treated and discharged within four hours. Innovation has also delivered more sustainable care closer to home, such as the ability for patients to receive chemotherapy at a rural facility whilst being supervised by a specialist clinician via videoconference without the need to travel to Rockhampton and the introduction of a rural generalist training model at Biloela to improve the sustainability of birthing services there.

Mr Speaker, 2017-18 was a benchmark year for CQ Health, as highlighted by the significant improvements delivered through improved staff, consumer and community engagement. As they move into another exciting year, with their ongoing desire to do the best they possibly can for Central Queenslanders it is the management and staff of CQ Hospital and Health Service to whom I pay my greatest respect. It is the staff who deliver services and create the experience for patients and consumers: those who make the gardens inviting and relaxing; those who keep the ward clean and the facilities safe; those who provide therapy and support; and the great allied health nurses, midwives and medical clinicians. Their commitment to the Central Queensland community is outstanding. Once again I place on record my thanks to CQ Health staff for the great work they do for the people of Central Queensland.