



Speech By  
**Cynthia Lui**


**MEMBER FOR COOK**

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**MATTER OF PUBLIC INTEREST**

**Cook Electorate, Health Services**

 **Ms LUI** (Cook—ALP) (2.20 pm): When it comes to health, Cook is clearly one of the most diverse electorates challenged by the vastness of the region. I have said this many times previously: Cook is not your typical electorate. The communities from Mareeba to Mossman and Port Douglas across Cape York Peninsula to the Torres Strait Islands are either separated by vast landscape or open sea. The Palaszczuk government acknowledges remoteness as one of the underlying factors influencing health outcomes for the region and is committed to strengthening health services to adequately meet the needs of people in communities.

The Cook electorate encompasses two different hospital and health services. They are Torres and Cape and Cairns and hinterland. While a large majority of the communities in Cook sit in Torres and Cape, other facilities which include the Mossman Multi Purpose Health Service, Cow Bay Primary Health Centre, Mareeba Hospital and Chillagoe Primary Health Centre are covered by the Cairns and Hinterland Hospital and Health Service.

The Cook electorate has three hospitals in Mareeba, Thursday Island and Bamaga with a multipurpose health service in Cooktown and Weipa, and public health centres and/or primary healthcare centres in the smaller regional and remote communities. The geographical make-up of the region underpins the type and level of service offered, supported by workforce requirements specific to the service level.

This year I had the privilege of visiting some of the hospitals and primary healthcare centres throughout my electorate to hear about service delivery in communities. One thing that remains certain was the commitment and dedication of our amazing health professionals in delivering quality health care to people no matter where they live. I had the pleasure of visiting Wujal Wujal Primary Health Centre early this year and heard about their wonderful patient care regime to ensure ongoing client care is achieved. In Pormpuraaw I visited on the day of their child health clinic and it was wonderful to see the line-up of parents with their children.

On Masig in the Torres Strait I spoke with a local person who was attending the primary healthcare centre to take advantage of the visiting dental clinic to have his whole family assessed. I recently visited the renal clinic at Thursday Island Hospital with Minister Miles and met locals who were receiving dialysis treatment. One local in particular expressed how happy she was to receive her treatment at home overlooking the beautiful turquoise water of the straits.

Quality service is clearly reaching communities in all corners of the Cook electorate, and it is the personal experience of people that really puts things into perspective. When it comes to supporting service delivery, no government understands this better than the Palaszczuk government. In Mareeba we delivered on our election commitment to build a \$1.5 million staff accommodation to attract more

medical staff to the region. This government understands that to deliver a quality service we need the right people to do the job. The staff accommodation would not only attract but also support staff transitioning to regional and remote towns and communities.

It does not stop at Mareeba either. We are funding staff accommodation in Kowanyama, Bamaga, Aurukun, Pormpuraaw, Ugar and Dauan islands. When it comes to delivering holistic health care, no government understands this concept better than the Palaszczuk government. This is why we are entering into a strong partnership with other key stakeholders to look at all aspects of health. Funding and entering into service agreements with key stakeholders is a reflection of a government that looks at health from all different perspectives.

Entering into a service agreement with local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander councils for the delivery of environmental health services, St John's Community Care to provide centre based dementia respite services over a range of locations including Mareeba, or Douglas Shire Community Services Association for delivery of the Housing and Support Program for people with mental illness exiting a Queensland Health facility are some examples of the wonderful partnerships currently in place. It shows that this government will leave no stone unturned for communities in my electorate.

I am proud to represent a government which delivers for all Queenslanders. The Palaszczuk government is committed to health in regional and remote communities in the Cook electorate. We are investing in jobs, infrastructure and service delivery, but most importantly we are investing in people to enhance health and wellbeing long into the future.