




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR TOOWOOMBA SOUTH

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HOSPITAL FOUNDATIONS BILL

 **Mr JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (3.34 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the Hospital Foundations Bill 2018. If there is one thing we know in Toowoomba it is that we need a strong relationship between the Toowoomba Hospital Foundation and the Darling Downs Hospital and Health Service. For over 27 years now the Toowoomba Hospital Foundation has worked hand in glove with our local hospitals and health services. They have supported the Toowoomba Hospital, the Mount Lofty Heights Nursing Home and Baillie Henderson Hospital and they have worked hand in glove with the hospital service and provided substantial lifesaving equipment and resources right across the health network in Toowoomba and the Darling Downs.

Over those 27 years a significant contribution—over \$9 million—has been handed over to the health service of Darling Downs and Toowoomba. It has been handed over by the great governance of the Toowoomba Hospital Foundation through its maintenance and operation of the car park and cafeteria at the Toowoomba Hospital. Beyond and above that, what we see with the Toowoomba Hospital Foundation is an extraordinary community support. Today on their Facebook page we saw a very generous community donation to the foundation in recognition and remembrance of a stillborn sibling. That family's sibling was stillborn in 1946. The contribution that the Toowoomba Hospital Foundation makes to the broader health network in Toowoomba and the Darling Downs is inestimable.

I want to pay tribute to the leadership of the Darling Downs Hospital and Health Service through the chairman and one of my predecessors, Mike Horan, and also the CEO of the service, Mr Peter Gillies, who serve on the board of the Toowoomba Hospital Foundation. Both organisations want to work closely together.

The Toowoomba Hospital Foundation would not be the extraordinary organisation it is without the leadership of its CEO, Alison Kennedy, who has really pushed the organisation forward right through to the heart of the community of Toowoomba over the three years that she has been there. I also acknowledge longstanding chairman, Mr Ray Taylor, a renowned Toowoomba businessman but also a very long-term chairman of the Toowoomba Hospital Foundation. That leadership team has worked very closely with the Darling Downs Hospital and Health Service. This bill, which supports the governance of hospital foundations, is to be applauded.

I want to finish my brief contribution talking about the future of health services in Toowoomba and the Darling Downs. The Toowoomba Hospital Foundation and the Darling Downs Hospital and Health Service form the basis of our health service. Toowoomba, however, is the base service centre for much of Western and Southern Queensland. Construction of this hospital started in 1880 and was pretty much completed in 1927, but there have been extensions in the years since. However, it is an old facility and the community of Toowoomba is crying out for some longer term planning.

A significant survey has been undertaken across the health services in Toowoomba—and the community has been surveyed—and it is clear that there is an appetite for the construction of a new hospital at a site, most likely at the Baillie Henderson Hospital site. There have been significant

discussions with government, with the bureaucracy, about funding this particular project. Funding has been allocated and it is my understanding that the minister was considering potential master planning. I encourage the minister to consider that as a matter of some urgency.

Toowoomba is a service centre for health right across Southern and Western Queensland. Its people deserve the very best health services. Not only could it be a fine centre for health services but it could be a centre of excellence for rural health serving not just regional and rural Queensland but rural and regional Australia. I believe that Toowoomba has that capability and it has the appetite. I believe the time has come for a significant investment in Toowoomba health services.