




Speech By
Peter Russo
MEMBER FOR TOOHEY

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ADJOURNMENT

Cook Medical Australia

 **Mr RUSSO** (Toohey—ALP) (7.08 pm): This evening I rise to speak about an industry located in my electorate. Cook Medical Australia, a medical device manufacturer, is situated in Brisbane Technology Park at Eight Mile Plains. On 1 February this year, I was at the facility with the Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning, the Hon. Cameron Dick, for the announcement that Cook Medical Australia is recruiting extra staff to boost the manufacture of its potentially life-saving medical device. Cook Medical is one of the few manufacturers worldwide of custom-made stent grafts to treat abdominal aortic aneurysms. The addition of 94 staff at the Brisbane Technology Park facility will mean not only more jobs for Queenslanders but also that Cook Medical Australia can speed up and increase the volume of production to meet demand for its life-changing stent graft devices.

The Queensland biomedical sector operates within a global value chain that has seen Cook Medical's 2017 exports exceed \$150 million, with 94 per cent of its locally manufactured products being exported to 64 countries. The benefit of this increase in production at Cook Medical's Eight Mile Plains facility is twofold: not only will Queensland patients benefit but also patients and hospitals across the world will benefit. I am thrilled that a manufacturer in my electorate is supporting one of the Palaszczuk government's key priorities by creating more jobs for Queenslanders.

The addition of an extra shift at a growing company such as Cook Medical provides a fantastic opportunity for jobseekers, especially those in our local area and those seeking more flexible work arrangements to fit in with their lifestyles. While the minister and I were visiting the facility, it became known that three of the additional staff to be recruited to Cook Medical manufacturing were from the minister's electorate. They had worked previously at Cook Medical and were returning because the new flexible working hours meant that rejoining the work force did not impact on family life.

A manufacturing facility of this calibre and worldwide reach operating in my backyard is a real coup for the electorate of Toohey. No doubt Cook Medical Australia will support jobs and the economy of the local area, as it continues to grow and expand. The minister advised that the Palaszczuk government is backing the biomedical sector.