




Speech By
Rob Molhoek

MEMBER FOR SOUTHPORT

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HOSPITAL FOUNDATIONS BILL

 **Mr MOLHOEK** (Southport—LNP) (4.04 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Hospital Foundations Bill 2018. As we have heard from many other members in the House today, there are two key policy objectives in this bill. One is to repeal and replace the Hospitals Foundations Act 1982 with a more streamlined and contemporary legislative framework under which entities may support and improve the public health system in Queensland. This purpose is primarily achieved by providing for the objects for which foundations may hold and manage property, the establishment of foundations and boards for foundations, and matters relating to the administration and oversight of foundations and boards for foundation.

The second policy objective of this bill is to amend the Drugs Misuse Act 1986 to enable appropriate further development of the industrial cannabis industry following a national decision to allow THC hempseed and seed products to be sold as food. Without the amendments to the Drugs Misuse Act, all cannabis seeds used in hempseed foods in Queensland would have to be imported from interstate or overseas. These amendments enable commercially led industrial cannabis industry development within Queensland and minimise associated risks and address pre-existing issues with the Drugs Misuse Act.

I particularly want to speak about the Gold Coast Hospital Foundation and its absolutely stellar history as an organisation. I note that in the current list of objectives one of its primary objectives is to enthusiastically raise funds to help the community overcome hardship caused by illness and disability. Its mission is to raise funds to relieve distress of illness, promote wellbeing and further medical advancements. Its ultimate vision is to ensure that no-one in the community experiences hardship caused by illness or disability.

I have had a long association with the Gold Coast Hospital Foundation. In a previous life as a radio station manager on the Gold Coast, we were invited to get involved with the Gold Coast Hospital Foundation one year with some fundraising activity. Earlier today the member for Whitsunday spoke about the great work of the Triple M network across Queensland and its annual Give Me 5 for Kids appeal. At the risk of being a little immodest, that particular concept—Give Me 5 for Kids—was started at 92.5 Gold FM back in the late nineties by the then breakfast morning announcer, a guy called Richard Fowler, and his team.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr MOLHOEK: No, not the same 'Chooky' that the member for Mermaid Beach referred to yesterday as the former member for Noosa. Over the years Give Me 5 for Kids has raised millions of dollars for hospital foundations and children's wards across Australia and particularly across Queensland. To further build on that, in 1996 92.5 Gold FM was approached by the then previous chair of the Gold Coast Hospital Foundation and then mayor and councillor Gary Baidon—a great Gold Coast citizen, a great contributor to the community. He suggested that the radio station might like to get involved in launching an art union to help raise funds for the Gold Coast Hospital Foundation, which the radio station did at the time. I think in the first year over \$100,000 was raised through that art union.

I have to acknowledge the incredibly generous support of Steve Cavalier, the state manager of Harvey Norman and the principal operator of Harvey Norman on the Gold Coast at Bundall, because every year since then Steve Cavalier and the team at Harvey Norman have donated over \$10,000 worth of shopping sprees and prizes as the major prize for art unions that have continued year after year in support of not just the Gold Coast Hospital Foundation but also the Gold Coast Community Fund which was established in 2000 with great people like Ian Cousins, the former general sales manager of Sea FM and Gold FM; Simon Bennett, a local principal lawyer from O'Keefe Mahoney Bennett; and of course the current chair, Rutland Smith, who is a former Harvey Norman franchisee. He has done an incredible job of driving the fund forward in recent years, and the Gold Coast Community Fund continues to support not only some of the great work of the hospital but many other charities and disadvantaged individuals on the Gold Coast.

I digress. Let me get back to the Gold Coast Hospital Foundation. The foundation has grown out of an incredible legacy, which was the old Southport hospital women's auxiliary that for many years ran the canteen, the gift shop and the flower shop. That hospital went on to become the Gold Coast hospital. As the hospital grew, it became a little too big for that group to manage. Eventually, in the late 1990s, the foundation was established. That auxiliary—that incredible group of women—continued to work very faithfully running the snack bar and the coffee shop at the old hospital. With the movement to the new Gold Coast University Hospital, the women of that auxiliary stepped aside and took on other volunteer roles within the precinct.

The other great work of the old auxiliary and the original hospital foundation was to build the chapel at the old hospital. When the old hospital was being torn down, there was a request that that chapel be saved. I acknowledge James Kennett and Michael Byrne, two members of the Rotary Club of Southport, who led a team of people who were instrumental in removing the chapel. It is now located in the middle of the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games precinct on the Broadwater. It has been beautifully restored. The chapel is now rented out for weddings and all sorts of other special occasions and raises money for some of the great work that Rotary does on the Gold Coast and, in turn, supports some of the work of the hospital foundation.

The Gold Coast Hospital Foundation is also very famous for its balls. Over the past 10 or 15 years I have had the pleasure of going to almost every single ball. Members will be pleased to hear that, for the past six years, I have had the pleasure of donating a dinner in the Strangers' Dining Room as a prize to be raffled or auctioned. I have been surprised at the generosity of some of the local businesspeople. I am sure they were not paying \$1,000 or \$2,000 just to come here to have dinner with me; they were simply wanting to support the great work of the Gold Coast Hospital Foundation. I ask members to please not tell them that it costs us only about \$40 a head to cater for them and that there are cheaper ways to arrange to have dinner at Parliament House.

I want to praise the work of the foundation. With the move to the Gold Coast University Hospital, a new foundation CEO was appointed, Kim Sutton. She has a tremendous profile on the Gold Coast. She is beloved and well known by many throughout the business community and many people at the hospital. Kim and her team have done an incredible job in taking the foundation from its very humble beginnings to being an organisation that raises upwards of \$1 million a year to support families and provide equipment. The foundation particularly does a lot of work in the children's ward in working with disadvantaged and struggling families. I praise their efforts and acknowledge the great work they do.

In closing, I want to talk about the ball that occurred a few weeks before the Gold Coast University Hospital opened. It is a magnificent facility. It has an incredible atrium. On the night of the ball, people were seated within the foyer reception area of the hospital. It was an inspiring evening with incredible music and great singing. We were also greeted by the traditional owners with an incredible dance routine and some amazing didgeridoo playing, with the sound wafting up that 11-storey atrium at the hospital.

I commend the bill. I especially want to praise and congratulate the Gold Coast Hospital Foundation on its incredible and enduring work over many years. I am pleased that these changes in the bill will make it easier and a lot simpler for the hospital foundation to function in the future and ensure that it continues to enjoy great leadership.