




Speech By
Hon. Cameron Dick

MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE

Record of Proceedings, 24 October 2019

ADJOURNMENT

Woodridge Electorate, Health Services

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning) (6.08 pm): It is a great privilege to be able to represent the electorate of Woodridge in this House and to have the opportunity to highlight the often life-changing work happening in the community. Good schools, an opportunity to work and improved public health care—these are the pillars that shaped my promise to the people of Woodridge when they first elected me in 2015.

Following that election, I was privileged to be appointed Queensland's health minister. During my tenure, along with the Premier I was proud to announce the \$460 million redevelopment of the Logan Hospital. This is a truly transformative infrastructure project for our community—one that will ensure better health outcomes are within reach locally for all of us. I thank the current health minister, Steven Miles, for his commitment to this project and for ensuring the redevelopment of the hospital continues at pace. The project was officially kickstarted two weeks ago with the craning in of the hospital's new rapid-expansion medical ward. This ward alone will house 28 new hospital beds by early 2020. It will mean that patients with complex medical conditions can be seen sooner, and it will help better manage demand in one of the fastest growing regions in Australia.

I would also like to update the House on another important healthcare initiative I initiated as Queensland Health minister and which I continue to support as the state member for Woodridge. Our Logan community maternity and child health hubs operate in Logan Central, Browns Plains and Waterford. The hubs are supported by an investment of \$3 million annually through the Logan Community Health Action Plan and are led by Metro South Health in partnership with fantastic local community organisations, including the Logan Together project, the Access Gateway, the Benevolent Society at Browns Plains and the Waterford West Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Health Service.

The hubs have been in operation for almost two years now and are providing wonderful care for mums and bubs. The results being delivered through improved antenatal care are making a significant difference to the Woodridge electorate and the city of Logan. For example, low attendance rates at antenatal care have dropped from over 10 per cent to four per cent, which is now better than the state average. This focus on support for new and expecting mothers is resulting in better birth outcomes for our community, particularly the Woodridge electorate. Latest figures from the hubs show rates of healthy birthweight, at term birth and breastfeeding all now sit at or above Queensland averages. Logan's maternity hubs will support almost 1,000 women from our area over the next 12 months, approximately one in four of all women birthing locally.

Universal access to quality health care is central to the mission of the Australian Labor Party and it is central to the mission of the Palaszczuk Labor government. It is also a right for all Queenslanders. I am so proud to be part of this government, which is changing lives in the electorate of Woodridge. We will continue to invest in health care in our community as a government to help improve the lives of the people of Woodridge.