



Speech By  
**Corrine McMillan**


**MEMBER FOR MANSFIELD**

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**PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT**

**Health Services**

 **Ms McMILLAN** (Mansfield—ALP) (2.53 pm): When I was travelling to Townsville from Brisbane late Sunday evening I had the wonderful opportunity to meet a fine young man. His name was Noah. Noah is originally from rural New South Wales and is in his first year of medicine at James Cook University. Noah had the choice of studying anywhere in Australia after finishing high school but he chose James Cook University here in Townsville. I am sure his decision was not just reflective of the wonderful North Queensland lifestyle and hospitality that this region offers. Approximately 11,500 students, including 1,500 international students, study at James Cook University. Noah is studying a Bachelor of Medicine and a Bachelor of Surgery which is a six-year full-time undergraduate degree. It is the only full medical course offered in Northern Australia.

Noah has a particular passion for better understanding the social determinants of health in rural settings. Whilst we travelled together he shared his knowledge of foetal alcohol syndrome, which affects five per cent of the Australian population. I admired Noah's genuine care and concern for the population affected and his understanding of the broader socio-economic circumstances, access and opportunity as contributing factors. When Noah finishes medicine he longs to live and work in outback Queensland. His own research suggests that there could be a position in rural medicine with Queensland Health when he graduates.

Noah's story is not unique. When governments invest in health services, provide outstanding schools in every corner of our state, invest in adequate housing for our health workers, teachers and police officers, when good governments pay our professionals adequately—like the recent EBA agreement for police of 2½ per cent each year for the next three years—and better recognition for Torres Strait Islander police support officers, and when governments invest in industries like hydrogen in the North West Minerals Province and the Haughton pipeline, they inspire hope in our rural and remote communities. Good governments and good governing encourages our people to live, work and serve in regional Queensland.

Noah is an inspirational young man who will work hard, serve our rural communities proudly and deliver compassionate medical services to our most vulnerable people. I know that you will do well, Noah, and my commitment to you during your course of study is to ensure that our Palaszczuk Queensland Labor government further prepares the environment needed to ensure that you fulfil your dream because, Noah, this is what good governments do.