



Speech By  
**Julianne Gilbert**


**MEMBER FOR MACKAY**

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**PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT**

**Mackay Base Hospital, Cardiac Services**

 **Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (2.39 pm): Seven years ago director of cardiology Dr Michael Zhang was lured to Mackay to design a brand-new cardiac catheter laboratory to be incorporated into the rebuild of the Mackay Base Hospital. Two years later, the very first angiogram was performed in Mackay by Dr Zhang and his team. It was truly a life-changing service for my community. Now we do stents and pacemakers in Mackay, along with other services.

Previously patients were sent to either Townsville or Brisbane for procedures. Who would have thought, but just recently during the Townsville floods we were able to offer support to patients from Townsville. This service has progressively grown to five days a week 24 hours a day. It is our community's aim to get it to 24/7.

The catheter service is saving lives in my community. Previously patients had to take the trip to either Townsville or Brisbane and for some patients this was a trip too far, with a devastating outcome for the patient and their family. Patients who receive care in their own communities have the support of their family and friends. There is less stress on the patient and their family and they have better health outcomes. Our population is ageing, and chronic heart disease is on the rise. Clinical interventions provided by the catheter lab are improving health outcomes in my area.

During Cyclone Debbie David Zarb suffered a heart attack while driving with his son Luke. His son managed to stop the car, put his father in the back seat and perform CPR until he could be transported to Mackay Base Hospital. He was assessed, operated on and his life was saved. All this took place during an unfolding natural disaster. Previously he would have had a very different outcome.

Health care is very important to the Palaszczuk government. Unfortunately, the federal member for Dawson, George Christensen, a member of the Morrison government—he has been referred to in the media lately as the member for Manila—stated on his Facebook page and in the media that he had to travel overseas because waiting lists in Australia were too long for him. This is an outrage. The federal government owes the Mackay HHS \$12.5 million for services that have already been performed. If we had this money from 'Jet Set George' and his government think of all the services that could have been performed in Mackay—all the knee replacements, hip replacements or even tonsil removals. We deserve that money.