



Speech By  
**Peter Russo**


**MEMBER FOR TOOHEY**

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**PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT**

**Metro South Hospital and Health Service, Nurse Navigators**

 **Mr RUSSO** (Toohey—ALP) (2.03 pm): On 15 August 2019 I had the opportunity to attend the Metro South Hospital and Health Service along with Corrine McMillan, the member for Mansfield, and Joe Kelly, the member for Greenslopes. While we were at the Metro South Hospital and Health Service a number of nurse navigators spoke of their involvement with their different patients. What was revealed is one of the hidden benefits of this service and that is the contact that the service has with its patients who face not only medical difficulties but also isolation and communication difficulties. The nurse navigators gave personal testimonies of their patients' involvement. The real benefit is not only medical but also a very personal service. The nurse navigators made the following comment, 'It's a privilege to be part of these people's lives.'

By way of background, the Queensland government first created the nurse navigator positions in 2015. At the 2017 election the Queensland government committed to employ 400 nurse navigators across Queensland. This is an investment of \$398 million from July 2015 to June 2023. The Queensland government is committed to funding the program on an ongoing and recurrent basis with an additional \$116.8 million in the 2019 budget. Metro South Health has received an allocation of 70 of those positions. It currently has 35 nurse navigators and is in the process of recruiting the remaining 35.

The nurse navigators specialise in areas including disability, chronic disease, paediatrics, dementia, diabetes, mental health, and multicultural and Indigenous health. Nurse navigators play a role in supporting and coordinating a patient's entire healthcare journey rather than focusing on just the specific disease or conditions and improving their way of life. The nurse navigator positions have so far demonstrated their ability to implement avoidance strategies to reduce admissions where they are not required and reduce or avoid occupied bed days for patients. Most importantly, they connect patients to services to improve the health journey of the patient and they see patients in hospital and at home. There are four principles that underpin the role of the nurse navigator.