




Speech By
Corrine McMillan

MEMBER FOR MANSFIELD

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Coronavirus, Response

 **Ms McMILLAN** (Mansfield—ALP) (2.27 pm): My electorate of Mansfield is home to many Chinese friends. The growing, vibrant suburb of Rochedale, where I call home and where I work, signifies all that is to be celebrated when people from diverse backgrounds come together as one. I rise in the House today to echo my sentiments on how resilient, humble and diligently compliant our Chinese community has been to address the global outbreak of coronavirus. Although this is not surprising, as this response is consistent with their soft, gentle and hardworking disposition.

I am proud of how the Palaszczuk Labor government has proactively led the charge to manage this challenging situation with its whole-of-government approach. Further, the Premier has led our nation with her decisive, sensible, practical and immediate call for the containment of the virus as the first layer of our defence. As we know, the federal government has lacked a unified approach to work closely with the states and territories and has been focused on spills and rorts rather than protecting the health of our Queensland population.

The Palaszczuk Labor government has held numerous briefings across all departments so that a whole-of-government response ensures the best possible strategies to manage the containment of this virus. Our Premier's leadership yet again has been symbolic of what Queenslanders have grown to expect and of what Queenslanders deserve. This is true public service. I would like to acknowledge the incredible stewardship of our Chief Health Officer, Dr Jeannette Young, and Minister for Health, the Hon. Steven Miles, who have led this statewide response in such a professional and calm manner. Our frontline staff, doctors, nurses and allied health staff are selfless as they process individuals and tour groups that may be affected.

As the Premier has recently stated, we must all continue to remain calm as our frontline staff work through the process to manage cases detected in Queensland. It is also important to note that the risk to the Australian public remains extremely low and that it is important for people to go about their daily lives.

This outbreak has occurred at a very unfortunate time for our Chinese community. I extend my sympathy and admiration to my community for their tenacity and resilience in working through this issue. My thoughts are with my close friends: Lewis Lee; Sisi Bi; Stanley Hsu; Janet Ren, her husband, Jeff, and baby, Liam; Jimmy Tsai; Raymond Mak; David Wu; Jonathan Chen; and many others. Better days are ahead of us and we know that you will continue to stand strong.