




Speech By  
**Peter Russo**  
MEMBER FOR TOOHEY

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Record of Proceedings, 6 February 2020

## ADJOURNMENT

### QEII Hospital

 **Mr RUSSO** (Toohey—ALP) (6.12 pm): On 13 January this year I was pleased to visit the QEII Hospital in my electorate to meet with 10 new and enthusiastic medical interns who had started their internship at the QEII Hospital. I also got to meet Bert, the labradoodle and his handler, Megan. This is an initiative at the QEII Hospital to introduce Bert as a companion to the people who have to go to hospital for treatment. Bert also interacts with the staff and has a positive effect on both staff and patients. I understand he is not allowed to be let loose on patients yet; he has one more certificate to gain. I must say that Bert is a lot better behaved than my two labradoodles, Cookie and Oreo.

These interns are the next generation of medical professionals and they are among 150 interns who started their careers across Metro South Health in January. Metro South Health is the major provider of public health services, and health education and research on Brisbane's south side. Metro South serves an estimated population of one million people, which is 23 per cent of Queensland's population, and they employ more than 14,000 staff. The interns I met have all worked extremely hard to be offered this opportunity at QEII where they will be able to grow and develop their skills and expertise within QEII's supportive environment.

This is the first year QEII Hospital has trained interns as a primary allocation centre and these interns will be able to complete all call and elective rotations at the facility. Throughout 2020 all of these interns will complete rotations in general medicine, general surgery and emergency medicine along with electives in specialised areas including orthopaedics, urology and gynaecology. The QEII Hospital environment provides the support these interns will need with a strong network of senior staff ready and willing to guide them over the next years.

I was also excited to hear about some of the other innovative projects that QEII is trialling. It has introduced what would seem like small initiatives that make a real difference to patients' lives. I am confident that the new interns who have started at QEII—and their patients—are in safe hands and the experiences they have will develop their skills and expertise and will make them great doctors for Queensland's future.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): As a former staff member of QEII, I can see that Bert the labradoodle has raised the standards of staffing since I left.