




Speech By
Dr Christian Rowan

MEMBER FOR MOGGILL

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PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENT

General Practitioners; Schools Support Staff Recognition Week

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (2.06 pm): I rise to firstly acknowledge the important role that general practitioners undertake as a part of primary and secondary healthcare in Queensland. General practitioners ultimately ensure the health and wellbeing of not just individuals but also entire communities. As primary healthcare professionals, general practitioners provide effective health services, interventions and public health advice and, as such, they are an integral part of our healthcare system. Ultimately, as part of multidisciplinary primary healthcare teams, general practitioners keep patients out of hospitals and, in doing so, relieve pressure on other parts of our health system.

As a former president of the Rural Doctors Association of Queensland, I can attest to the vital importance of general practitioners, as well as rural generalists, in rural, regional and remote communities. More than 50 per cent of all COVID-19 vaccinations administered across Australia have been done so by general practitioners who have worked hard to achieve this whilst also providing other healthcare services for their communities. The more than 50 per cent of all COVID-19 vaccines administered represents more than 11 million vaccine doses.

I acknowledge Dr Bruce Willett, Vice President and Queensland Faculty Chair of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, and also RACGP state manager, James Flynn. As the peak representative organisation for general practice and through the efforts of Dr Willett and his executive, the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners continues to work closely with all stakeholders on the pandemic response, the vaccine rollout and supporting all general practitioners so they can continue to carry out their important community health work. I acknowledge former Australian Medical Association Queensland presidents Dr Steve Hambleton and Dr Zelle Hodge. Both are well respected general practitioners.

Speaking of important health and community care, I also acknowledge the vital and invaluable contribution of Palliative Care Queensland. For over 30 years, Palliative Care Queensland has continued to support Queensland individuals, families, carers and community members as well as specialist and generalist healthcare professionals working with Queenslanders experiencing serious illness, dying, death and grief. Recently there has been a greater focus within our community on the realities as well as the current funding allocation and provision of palliative care in Queensland. Anything that can enhance access and improve the quality of care for all Queenslanders is always worthy of consideration, discussion and implementation. I would like to acknowledge a number of medical practitioners with specialist training, qualifications and experience in palliative care: Dr Carol Douglas, Dr Anthony Herbert, Dr Luke Garske, Dr Sue Colen, Dr Judith McEniery, Dr Ralph McConaghy and Dr Thomas Brucklacher and the entire staff of the Wesley Hospital palliative care unit.

Finally, as the Liberal National Party's shadow minister for education I take this opportunity to mention that this week is Schools Support Staff Recognition Week 2021. I thank all of Queensland's dedicated school administration staff, school officers, operation officers, business managers and all

other support staff who are crucial to the delivery of education and learning in our state. I particularly wish to acknowledge and thank all school support staff in the electorate of Moggill. This week I was delighted to again sponsor a thank-you morning tea for school support staff at the Kenmore State High School.