



Speech By  
**Dr Christian Rowan**


**MEMBER FOR MOGGILL**

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**PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENT**

**University of Queensland, Institute for Molecular Bioscience**

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (2.13 pm): As the Liberal National Party's shadow minister for education and shadow minister for the arts, I was delighted to attend the 21st anniversary celebrations of the University of Queensland's Institute for Molecular Bioscience. It was a very important celebration of more than two decades of world-leading translational research conducted right here in Queensland by not only some of Queensland's most talented and esteemed scientists but also researchers from around the world. I was especially delighted that this celebration also showcased the Institute for Molecular Bioscience's Institute of Light installation, which was held in collaboration with the Brisbane Festival. This installation featured an interactive, large-scale sound and light experience throughout South Bank's famous Rainforest Walk.

Throughout the event, some of the wonderful achievements and scientific translational research outcomes achieved by the Institute for Molecular Bioscience were highlighted, including: the discovery of the underlying mutations which lead to pancreatic and ovarian cancer; the delivery of new drugs for inflammatory diseases; the development of the world's first eco-friendly pesticides; and the production of an innovative first-in-class treatment for blood cancer, as well as the development of additional medicines for bacterial infections, since the last class of antibiotics were discovered in the 20th century.

In May of this year and in the lead-up to the 21st anniversary celebrations, I was fortunate to take part in an extensive visit to the Institute for Molecular Bioscience's research facilities at the University of Queensland's St Lucia campus. During my visit, I was briefed on the ongoing research conducted into new pharmaceutical medicines and the ongoing efforts to repurpose microbes and molecules found in nature for new discoveries, including through the world-leading Soils for Science initiative. I also directly encountered some amazing research that is taking place by utilising the venom of spiders. This is certainly something not to be experienced by those who may be suffering from any form of arachnophobia. This research, quite literally, will save lives, with incredible findings for those suffering myocardial infarction, heart disorders and other forms of cardiovascular disease.

I would also like to acknowledge Emeritus Professor Paul Alewood, Group Leader, Chemistry and Structural Biology Division, for his substantial contribution and body of research in protein and peptide chemistry, including venoms-based drug discovery and the potential for venoms to be used in the treatment of chronic pain. I also congratulate the University of Queensland's Professor David Craik on being elected as a fellow of the oldest scientific society of the world, the Royal Society, for his outstanding contribution to science. Past fellows of this society include Charles Darwin, Sir Isaac Newton, Sir Stephen Hawking and many Nobel prize winners such as Australia's Professor Elizabeth Blackburn AC and Professor Barry Marshall.

As an alumnus of the University of Queensland, I also wish to place on record my sincere congratulations to Professor Aidan Byrne, the Provost and Senior Vice-President of the University of Queensland, as well as Professor Ian Henderson, Director of the Institute for Molecular Bioscience, and all past and present researchers and students on an incredible two decades of outstanding translational health research and scientific achievement.