




Speech By
Jessica Pugh

MEMBER FOR MOUNT OMMANEY

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Maternity Services

 **Ms PUGH** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (2.17 pm): Mr Deputy Speaker Kelly, I am not sure how your new year's was, but mine was huge! I pulled an all-nighter, but instead of a hangover I got an adorable baby. Elyse Annastacia Speechley Pugh was born at 10.37, or thereabouts, at the Mater Mother's on New Year's Day. She was 11 days overdue and she still needed a lot of persuasion from the staff and me. She is a very little lady with a big personality and even bigger shoes to fill. I want to thank my amazing midwives on shift that night—Erica and Leanne—who worked with me in the shower, in the bath and on the ball. We are so lucky in Queensland to have amazing midwives like these women in our hospitals, and I just happened to get these two superstars. Nothing fazed Leanne, who was the first midwife. She is a mum of five herself. She was totally on board with my birth plan and she was really respectful and absolutely incredible.

Being a midwife means being there for the most emotional day of somebody's life. It is not a job; it is a calling, and I was incredibly lucky. Leanne and Erica were also great with my husband, Talbot. He is a first-time dad and it was a huge day for him. Being a support person is a really tough gig—it is almost as tough as having a baby—and I was incredibly lucky to have Talbot there for the birth of our daughter. Also in my support team I had Paris Jacobs, a local midwifery student. She followed me throughout my pregnancy as part of her degree. She will be an amazing midwife when she qualifies, so I encourage any expectant parents to consider adopting their own student midwife to help the next generation of midwives get their degrees. Centenary mums, Paris is a Centenary local and I can highly recommend her firsthand. I want to thank my GP and the midwives at my local medical practice, Grow Medical, who provided me with in-community care throughout my pregnancy. When we realised that Elyse was not growing as quickly as we would have liked, they helped me work through those issues.

Elyse decided that she really liked hospital. She wanted to go back. A few weekends ago, as she had not regained her birth weight by six weeks, we presented to the Children's Hospital on the advice of our paediatrician. Again the staff were simply amazing. In one day we saw an ENT, a radiologist, a paediatrician and a lactation consultant. There may have been more. It was really busy. By Sunday morning we had a diagnosis of laryngomalacia, which is floppy airways, which is why she snorts—I am sure all members have heard her! We were allowed to go home with a management plan and Elyse is now steadily gaining weight.

What could have been a really scary and upsetting experience as new parents was made much easier by the wraparound support I received from all my public healthcare providers. As a parent, and as an MP, I feel very lucky that we have such a wonderful facility in Queensland for our community. Being pregnant during a pandemic was really interesting. Our entire health system adapted beautifully. I remember getting 13HEALTH advice about a COVID test from a fantastic nurse called Elyse. We are lucky to have this facility. I thank my community for their support at this exciting time.