




Speech By
Hon. Yvette D'Ath

MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Herston Biofabrication Institute

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (10.23 am): Queensland is leading the way in medical research. We have some of the best medical researchers and doctors in the country. Last week, I had the privilege of officially opening an innovative new facility, the Herston Biofabrication Institute. This new \$10 million institute at the Herston Health Precinct will bring together clinicians, academics and industry leaders to advance knowledge and technology in 3D printing, scanning and modelling of medical devices and tissues such as bones. One of the doctors showed me how they have used their 3D printer to model the torso and groin area of an individual to practise and hone their skills on so that now when someone has a cardiac arrest, they can perform the procedure of a heart-lung bypass at the same time as someone is getting CPR—they are not having to wait until CPR is finished—giving that person a much better chance of survival going forward.

There will be a specific focus on a number of key areas including orthopaedic surgery, burns and dermatology, vascular surgery, urology, cancer care and intestine care, just to name a few. This state-of-the-art facility is the only one of its kind in Australia and is another prime example of the Palaszczuk government's commitment to world-class research, in particular within the medical research sphere. The facility includes a full mechanical workshop, a number of 3D printers in the printing lab, a digital innovative hub, a tissue culture laboratory and patient consultation rooms.

It is the institute's aim, within 10 years, to have biofabrication technologies integrated seamlessly into everyday patient care. Put simply, this technology will enable a body part which was missing or defective to be replaced with something that fits perfectly and has been created from a person's own tissues, with nothing more than a small sample. While this may sound like something out of a science fiction movie, this technology is being developed and, with the Palaszczuk government's support, realising this dream will not take long at all.

This institute will enable a 30-plus-strong team, linked in partnerships with the University of Queensland, to get on with the job of creating the next wave of medical technologies. I am advised that the institute will commence a number of trials this year, and we watch with interest the outcomes.