




Speech By
Barry O'Rourke

MEMBER FOR ROCKHAMPTON

Record of Proceedings, 16 March 2022

ADJOURNMENT

Rockhampton Base Hospital, Staff

 **Mr O'ROURKE** (Rockhampton—ALP) (7.12 pm): I recently had the pleasure of welcoming 40 new medical interns to the Rockhampton Base Hospital. Rockhampton and Central Queensland will be home to the new interns as they start the next stage of their medical careers. They will work in various specialist areas for a couple of months at a time to gain a broad knowledge of the health system. Through this training process, our interns will be positioned well for the future. The Central Queensland Health workforce was further boosted with the intake of graduate nurses.

Our hospital staff have been working in very trying times in meeting the increased client demand. I thank all of our health staff. I hope the recent intake of these health professionals will help ease workloads. I hope the new medical staff enjoy their time in Rockhampton and Central Queensland and make our region home permanently. I was doing a radio interview regarding our new medical interns with Michael J Bailey from local radio station 4RO. You could hear the excitement in his voice. I am sure a lot of other listeners in the regions would have been excited as well.

I also would like to thank the wonderful staff who have been working at the Rockhampton vaccination hub, providing vaccines for the Central Queensland community. They have done an excellent job. They have been not only working in the hub but also travelling around Central Queensland providing vaccinations. Like all of us in the House know, travelling away from our home base has an impact on our loved ones. I also thank their families and friends for the support they have provided.

I would like to put on record my thanks to Belinda, nurse unit manager; Candice, Director of Nursing—COVID; Chloe and Maria, pharmacists; Angela and Hannah, lead admin; and Liz, Helen, Suzanne, Robyn, Glen, Karen, Louise, Jessica, Allison and Sarah and my son Harry who are just a few of the nurses who have worked tirelessly for the Central Queensland community.

I know that there have been challenging times in delivering the vaccinations to our community and to the very vulnerable, particularly those who are unable to leave their homes. I know that the staff in the Central Queensland hospital and health district have done outreach work to support those very vulnerable people, and I thank them on behalf of the Central Queensland community. To all our health staff I say: you have done an amazing job in very challenging times, and on behalf of the Central Queensland community I thank you.