




Speech By
Christopher Whiting

MEMBER FOR BANCROFT

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ADJOURNMENT

Health Infrastructure

 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (7.16 pm): I rise tonight to say that I am very glad I joined the member for Pine Rivers and the Minister for Health the other day as we broke ground on the new satellite hospital in the Pine Rivers area. It was a wonderful moment. It is always great when we start work on a new health facility in the growing Moreton Bay region. The concrete pour has now happened, and we are going to see work happen at a fast rate. I think it is a great reminder that it is this Labor Party that is delivering seven brand new satellite hospitals, including one at Bribie Island, Caboolture and in the Pine Rivers district. It is Labor that is delivering these health facilities. We would like to remind the House that they will provide day services like oncology, radiotherapy, mammograms, paediatric appointments and those appointments that need less intense care. That frees up services coming from our main hospitals. It frees up bed capacity at those hospitals so they can provide intense care at those wonderful hospitals such as Caboolture and Redcliffe.

While mentioning beds at these hospitals, can I point out once again that it is Labor that is rebuilding the Caboolture Hospital, a \$400 million project. That will deliver another 130 beds at our local hospital and a new reconstructed emergency department. It is the Labor government that is redeveloping the Redcliffe Hospital, a \$1 billion project. That will deliver an extra 200 beds. Bear in mind that this will service those booming suburbs of North Lakes and Mango Hill as they grow on the northern edge. I think that what we did at Pine Rivers the other day illustrates what we are doing, and that includes building three new hospitals, expanding 11 more and creating the new Queensland Cancer Centre. What a wonderful achievement!

On this side we are all proud of what we are delivering in the health area in terms of infrastructure. It is more than infrastructure, may I point out, that Labor is delivering. We are putting on 9,475 additional frontline workers in this term. People ask, 'Where do we get these people from?' I say that we are training Queenslanders. We are training Queenslanders like my niece Charlotte, who is studying nursing next door at QUT. They are getting ready to go out on prac into our wonderful hospitals to learn how to care for their fellow Queenslanders. It is this Labor government that is providing training programs to give our workers the skills to staff those hospitals.