




Speech By
Cynthia Lui

MEMBER FOR COOK

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MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Cook Electorate, Health Services

 **Ms LUI** (Cook—ALP) (2.41 pm): I rise today to speak about health investment in the Cook electorate. In doing so, I would like to commend the Premier and her cabinet for all the amazing work they are doing to deliver for health in Cook. What was most disappointing for me today was coming in here and listening to those opposite go on and on about our Premier and what she is not doing. I think I have learned more about the Premier's whereabouts in this one day of sitting than I have ever been privileged to know. I want to thank those opposite for—

Ms Richards: Showing how hard she works.

Ms LUI:—yes, showing how hard she works. I can certainly see the impact this government is having on my communities through record health investments.

There is no doubt that this government cares about the health and wellbeing of Queenslanders right across the state no matter where they live. That is no different for the communities that I look after from the Torres Strait to Cape York to Mareeba and to the Douglas shire. I want to talk about some of the investments we have seen pour into my electorate and to also take the opportunity to school those opposite about what is actually happening and what real hard work looks like.

This government invested \$46 million into the refurbishment of the TI hospital and primary healthcare centre. TI hospital looks after the 15 outer islands. It is a huge investment for the region and I know that it is going to improve health outcomes for the region.

We have also invested \$17.4 million into the refurbishment of four primary healthcare centres on the outer islands of the Torres Strait: Dauan, Ugar, Masig and Pormpuraaw. I had the opportunity last week while I was on Masig to look at the infrastructure and I was amazed. Being someone who has worked in health for a long time prior to coming into this place, I know that this investment is going to go a long way. It is especially going to support the workers at this primary healthcare centre to deliver quality health care.

We invested \$25 million into the birthing suite at Weipa Hospital. This is going to bring this service closer to home for mums or mums-to-be in Cape York. I am very excited about this new service. There is also \$8.86 million for refurbishment for medical imaging, including Weipa's first CT scanner. We are actually looking into the future at what other services we could offer for the western cape communities. There was also \$10.1 million for the Mossman Hospital which went into the refurbishment of the emergency department. I had the Minister for Health with me for the opening. It was a very monumental occasion for a heritage building. We are taking time to really listen to the needs of communities. I am very blessed and I feel very honoured to be in this position where we are actually doing a lot of good work in the health space.

We are investing in staff accommodation in Bamaga in the NPA, the furthestmost north we can get. Tourists visit Bamaga all the time, but it is critical we also have the right people working in our health services to deliver quality health care. I look at this investment and I know the impact it is going to have on my communities. We are not only planning for the future around service delivery but also looking at ways we can bring people with the right skills and expertise into the region to work.

What I am most excited about are the commitments we have made for the future. This is the \$7 million we have committed to the Mer Island Primary Health Care Centre in the Torres Strait, a brand new clinic. The old one has been around for a long time, so I cannot wait to see this project up and running. Since I came into this position there has also been \$13.7 million for the Cow Bay Primary Health Centre. It is going to go a long way because I know how long the community of Cow Bay or the Daintree has been asking for a new primary healthcare centre there. I know it is going to go a long way in improving health outcomes for a community that is so isolated and tucked away in the Daintree.

We are doing amazing work in the electorate. I am very proud to represent this government. I will always stand up for the Premier, who delivers.