




Speech By
Kim Richards

MEMBER FOR REDLANDS

Record of Proceedings, 25 October 2022

ADJOURNMENT

Redlands Electorate; State Education Week

 **Ms RICHARDS** (Redlands—ALP) (8.47 pm): I echo the sentiments expressed by the member for Bundamba in this State Education Week and I thank all of our teachers. World Teachers' Day is this Friday. I do not think there is anyone in this chamber who does not love the work that our teachers do in our communities. I wish all of our year 12 students the very best in their exams this week. I give a particular shout-out to my niece up in Cairns. I know that she has been studying really hard and is hoping to obtain a position at Griffith. To all of our year 12 students: best of luck this week. I know that you have all put in the hard yards and will do extremely well.

I wanted to update the House on our satellite hospital. It is going gangbusters on site. It is hard to believe that the site was transferred. We did the exchange with the Redland City Council back in January. Hutchinson Builders were on in site in the second week of January. Nine months in, I took the drone in and gave constituents a bird's eye view of what the site looked like and the scale of that development. Then, I had the opportunity to visit Construction Skills Queensland—a big shout-out to Tony there. He took students from the Redlands to 'try a trade' with the Hutchinson Builders staff. There were people learning tiling, flashing, plumbing and all sorts of things. They were hanging the plaster already. It is nine months in and it is already well under way. I cannot wait to see that facility open next year because that is going to make a huge difference to my island community and to the growing southern end of the Redlands. If anyone is under any doubt about the value that these satellite hospitals will add to Queenslanders bringing health care closer to home they are kidding themselves.

Of course somebody who is getting renal dialysis at the Redland Hospital who lives on an island is going to benefit from having that service closer to home. Some of the stories out there are absolute misnomers and people should be ashamed of themselves for telling them because they are dudding Queenslanders in putting that commentary out there. I also had the opportunity to meet DJ, who has been doing a Construction Skills Queensland pathway. She had been appointed by Hutchinson Builders as one of its newest apprentices in carpentry. She is a single mum with a six-month-old baby with a new career path—the best story ever. If we want to talk about the great stories that are coming out of our investment in health infrastructure, there it is right there. It can be seen down at the Redlands. I am happy to take anybody out there to show them what value that will give to my community.

I am also a bit disappointed in our federal member who has put some rumourmongering out there this week around the funding for our ICU and our additional ward beds. That is a load of rubbish. Some \$13 million has already been paid to Queensland Health for that project, with the rest coming along. The complementary work that is happening out there in health care will make a huge difference. Congratulations to the Albanese government on its investment in people over 55 in our aged-care sector and providing cheaper medicines. We know that working together we will deliver better health care for all Queenslanders.