




Speech By
Hon. Yvette D'Ath

MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE

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MOTION

Death of Queen Elizabeth II and Accession of King Charles III, Address of Condolence and Congratulations

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (10.20 am): I rise to speak in support of this condolence motion. When we talk about the great people in history they tend to share one quality: regardless of what period in time they walked the earth, their race or their gender, they all put service above everything else. Queen Elizabeth II certainly earned her spot on that list.

The Queen's passing a little over a month ago has seen her missed and remembered by many. It is not just those in the British Isles but also by people who do not even consider themselves monarchists. In fact, for most of us, Queen Elizabeth II is the only monarch we have known in our lifetime. Her passing is a profound moment in our history. We can look to her as an example of how we should be: her strength in leadership, the stability she brought in an ever changing world and, more importantly, her dedication to helping others.

Our health workers share that dedication to helping others, but it is not the only connection between the Royal Family and Queensland Health. The QEII Jubilee Hospital in Coopers Plains on Brisbane's south side was, of course, named after Queen Elizabeth II. Just eight kilometres north in Woolloongabba is the Princess Alexandra Hospital, which was named after the Queen's cousin Princess Alexandra of Kent. Across the river in Chermiside is the Prince Charles Hospital, which was named after the now King Charles III.

Those three hospitals are amongst the largest in Australia. The QEII Jubilee Hospital was originally conceived in 1968 and in 1977 it was renamed to commemorate the silver jubilee of the Queen's royal reign. QEII was the first public hospital in Queensland to be operated as a business by volunteer workers. The hospital also pioneered the first computer-assisted micrographic archiving of medical records, X-rays and patient chart systems. QEII also provided medical and dental services for major events, including the 1982 Commonwealth Games. Today it remains one of Queensland's most important hospitals and its endoscopy unit is the most advanced diagnostic facility in Australia.

The Prince Charles Hospital opened in 1954 as the Brisbane chest hospital, a facility originally designed to treat tuberculosis patients. With the successful tuberculosis eradication program, it was then named the Chermiside hospital in 1961. It was again renamed the Prince Charles Hospital in 1974 after a visit from the then His Royal Highness Prince Charles.

The hospital crest was granted in June 1977 by the King of Arms and artwork for the approved designs was conceived in 1979. The red dragon on the hospital crest is a reference to then Prince Charles and the Prince of Wales badge. The Prince Charles Hospital motto 'we serve' was also inspired by the personal motto of the then His Royal Highness—now His Majesty—being 'I serve'. On that basis it appears King Charles III will admirably fill the enormous void left by his mother. As for the hospital

which bears his name, it is now a major tertiary referral hospital for cardiac and thoracic services. It continues to deliver world-class services including emergency medicine, mental health services and orthopaedic surgery.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere condolences to Buckingham Palace and the Royal Family following the death of Queen Elizabeth II. I would also like to acknowledge the Queen for not only her devotion to service and vehement support of hospital and healthcare services, but also her regular acknowledgement of the compassion and fortitude of healthcare workers across the Commonwealth.

I also take this opportunity to congratulate His Majesty King Charles III for his accession to the throne and Australia's head of state. He has been a champion for a number of causes throughout his life and I look forward to watching him carry on the tradition of service and duty set by his late mother. Vale, Queen Elizabeth II.