




Speech By
Bart Mellish

MEMBER FOR ASPLEY

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ADJOURNMENT

Prince Charles Hospital; Aspley Electorate, Sport

 **Mr MELLISH** (Aspley—ALP) (6.01 pm): I rise to speak about some fantastic milestones for health projects in my Aspley community. Over the past month I have been to our local hospital, the Prince Charles Hospital, on multiple occasions alongside the Minister for Health and member for Stafford. The first of these visits was to turn the first sod on our new publicly owned multistorey car park project. This will see a new 1,500 capacity car park, more than tripling the existing car park capacity. A great benefit of this project is the effect it will have on north side families, who will pay less in parking when visiting a loved one or having to visit the hospital for a specialist appointment, as well as being able to find a car park. I know that this project is greatly anticipated by Aspley locals, and I am pleased that it is now under construction.

More recently the Minister for Health and I toured the Prince Charles Hospital to inspect the completed expansion of an additional six beds in the emergency department short-stay unit. After speaking with staff and patients using these extra beds, I could see that this project is already making a big difference. These additional beds will mean fewer delays for patients waiting to be admitted. The health funding for the Prince Charles Hospital does not end there. As part of our health and hospitals infrastructure plan, the Prince Charles Hospital is set to undergo a \$360 million expansion project, with construction set to begin mid-2024. This will see our local hospital receive a new dedicated acute services building, an expanded adult and paediatric emergency department and 94 new additional beds. Once completed, it will be the second largest children's health service in the state. These three projects are great examples of just how the Palaszczuk Labor government is delivering the crucial health infrastructure and services that our community needs.

While I am on my feet, I thought I would take the opportunity to also mention a few recent Aspley sporting achievements. I want to say a big congratulations to the Aspley Hornets men's QAFL Reserves and seniors teams on their premiership wins. It was a great afternoon down in Coorparoo, and I think my three-year-old is now an AFL convert. I also give a big congratulations to the QAFLW seniors team on their run-out performance in their own grand final.

Finally, I just want to mention how fantastic it is to see the Northside Indoor Sports Centre host a number of women's NBL games in this weekend's River City Rebound matches. The tournament will see the Sydney Flames, JCU Townsville Fire, Perth Lynx and Adelaide Lightning take to the Northside Indoor Sports Centre in Zillmere for a thrilling pre-season competition on tonight, Saturday and Sunday. Well done, Basketball Queensland; well done, Minister for Sport; and well done, Wizards, for making this great event possible. Prior to 2017 this facility was an abandoned shed in Zillmere, but we were able to deliver a fantastic facility which has added so much life to the north side and to Zillmere. It is used seven days a week. Every time you go in there you see families of all ages using it. It really is an amazing infrastructure right next to Jabiru school in the heart of Zillmere.