




Speech By
Brittany Lauga

MEMBER FOR KEPPEL

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Mental Health Services

 **Ms LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (2.15 pm): I know firsthand how important mental health services are for our region and I know firsthand how difficult it can be to access mental health services. Our CQ health doctors, nurses and healthcare workers do an incredible job with the facilities they have, but we need more, which is why I am so pleased that we are taking a major step towards improving mental health services in Central Queensland.

The Palaszczuk government is building a \$92 million, brand new, state-of-the-art, 32-bed mental health unit at the Rockhampton Hospital providing essential care for those in need. Once completed in 2026 the facility will provide high-quality treatment and care to more residents in our local community. This commitment ensures that locals can receive high-quality treatment closer to home.

Not only are we building this brand new mental health unit, the CQHHS has also been delivering an innovative outpatient mental health service to over 300 patients across Central Queensland so that locals can access treatment without having to be an inpatient at hospital. This, together with the partnership with QAS to do mental health co-responding with mental health nurses on board ambulance vehicles, is also supporting people in the community with mental illness.

I am also pleased that \$28.5 million is being spent to deliver a new cardiac hybrid theatre in Rockhampton. This new theatre will enhance cardiovascular procedures, including coronary angiograms, coronary stents and pacemaker implantation. Once completed, locals will be able to access these procedures without having to travel to Brisbane. My goal since being elected to this place has been to advocate for more healthcare services being available at our QC hospitals so that where possible local patients can get the health care they need closer to home.

Further to this, I am pleased to announce that tenders are now open for the \$10.37 million satellite renal dialysis unit at the Capricorn Coast Hospital. Underlining the Palaszczuk government's investment in delivering health services closer to home, the eight-chair unit will ensure kidney patients from Yeppoon and surrounds will no longer need to travel to Rockhampton Hospital as they do currently multiple times a week, with a carer, for treatment. Following the tender process the project will enter the design and construction phase with a projected completion in late 2024. Thirty-two renal dialysis treatment spaces have already opened in regional, rural and remote communities since 2020 in addition to those delivered as part of a Palaszczuk government commitment made at the 2020 election.

The Palaszczuk Labor government invests in rural, regional and remote health care, unlike the LNP who cut services and sacked healthcare workers. One hundred and ninety-seven full-time healthcare workers were sacked under the LNP from the Central Queensland Hospital and Health Service, but since we came to government we have restored those jobs and built on them. We know that better health care means a healthier community. That is why we have listened and are committed to delivering the services this community expects and deserves. This Palaszczuk Labor government does not cut, sack and sell in Queensland or in Central Queensland, we boost our health services and I am really proud that these announcements will provide better health care to Central Queenslanders.