




Speech By
Charis Mullen

MEMBER FOR JORDAN

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Ipswich, Health Infrastructure

 **Mrs MULLEN** (Jordan—ALP) (2.51 pm): Our Labor government is committed to ensuring that we have a strong healthcare system for all Queenslanders. The solution is not simple and requires new investment as well as reform and innovation across the health system to ensure that we continue to deliver world-class health care for all Queenslanders. Early in my first term of parliament I attended an evening community briefing on West Moreton HHS's 15-year master plan for infrastructure and clinical services in response to a predicted doubling of our population in the region by 2036. I recall as a fairly new MP feeling slightly overwhelmed by what would be required by both the HHS and our government to deliver such an ambitious but necessary plan. I am pleased to reflect that in less than five years our government has been able to secure much crucial investment for health infrastructure and clinical services for the people of the Ipswich region.

Stage 1 of the \$146.3 million master planned expansion of Ipswich Hospital has delivered a 26-bed ward and refurbished space for allied health, oncology and outpatient care as well as a brand new state-of-the-art MRI suite. In the most recent state budget, stage 2 announced a further \$710 million that will deliver around 200 additional beds. Our \$91 million acute mental health facility is nearing completion and will open this year—50 beds in a contemporary environment for best practice mental health care and assessment, recovery and rehabilitation services. A brand new \$24.5 million alcohol and other drugs withdrawal management and rehabilitation facility will provide 10 withdrawal management beds and 35 residential rehabilitation beds.

Our new public hospital in Springfield which we are delivering in partnership with Mater Health Services will deliver another 174 public overnight and same-day beds. An intensive care unit, much needed emergency department, maternity services and additional high-level clinical services are all now under construction. Our nearly completed South Ripley satellite hospital is a fantastic new healthcare facility which will ease demand on Ipswich Hospital and provide care closer to home for residents in the growth corridor and will deal with outpatient services as well as minor injuries and illnesses. As the member for Bundamba mentioned, in even better news this satellite hospital will also include a modular subacute expansion which will boost capacity with 90 additional overnight subacute beds, freeing up capacity for those acute patients in other larger public hospitals in our region.

I recognise that our health system is facing greater demand and pressure than ever before. This is not a uniquely Queensland problem. Indeed, nationwide health services are feeling the stress. The significant investment that only a Labor government would make for the West Moreton region will ensure that we not only stabilise our health system but deliver even more and better health services for the people of Ipswich.