



Speech By  
**Christopher Whiting**


**MEMBER FOR BANCROFT**

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Record of Proceedings, 11 May 2023

**PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS**

**Health System**

 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (3.02 pm): I always love listening to the originator of the fake Bradfield scheme lecture us on water.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I find the comments by the member personally offensive and I ask him to withdraw.

**Mr WHITING:** I withdraw. This week the people of Cairns have seen why Queensland is in safe hands under the Premier, they have seen why we need to keep these outstanding Cairns Labor MPs and they have seen that the LNP is woeful. I want to talk about our contrasting records on hospitals and health.

Under the Palaszczuk government we are seeing the largest uplift in health spending in Queensland's history. As part of this investment we will deliver over 2,500 extra beds. We are spending \$23 billion over four years on health infrastructure and services. That includes \$9.7 billion on new and expanded hospitals and health centres throughout Queensland. This is part of the biggest hospital building program in Queensland's history. It will mean three new hospitals in Bundaberg, Toowoomba and Coomera and the expansion of 11 hospitals around Queensland, including at Caboolture, Redcliffe, Rockhampton, Townsville and, of course, Cairns.

Today we have heard how the Palaszczuk government is creating an even better health system in Cairns. There will be a \$250 million Cairns Base Hospital expansion which will deliver an extra 96 beds and an emergency department upgrade. All in all that is an investment of \$346 million in the health system in Cairns.

Just as important is the investment in better health services and health staff throughout Queensland. We are on track to see an extra 9,475 staff in this term of government and we are seeing a massive investment in mental health services across Queensland. I congratulate the member for Cairns on the \$70 million expansion of mental health facilities in Cairns. We will see a \$1.6 billion investment in better mental health, alcohol and drug services. That comes from a payroll levy on our biggest businesses. This will provide more mental health, alcohol and drug treatment beds, more mental health staff, more dedicated child and adolescent support services and more crisis response and suicide prevention services. It would be very clear to the people of Cairns that Labor will better run our health services.