




Speech By
Dale Last

MEMBER FOR BURDEKIN

Record of Proceedings, 26 October 2023

PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Shin, Mr J

 **Mr LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (2.06 pm): In a medical emergency minutes matter. Early diagnosis and treatment saves lives and ensures the best outcomes, especially when specialist services are hundreds of kilometres away. Recently I attended a meeting of the Bowen Probus Club where one of the most inspiring and passionate medical professionals I have ever seen addressed attendees. Jack Shin, affectionately known as Jack, the senior radiographer at the Bowen Hospital, is testament to the benefits of improving medical imaging in regional centres. The campaign to provide CT Scans at the Bowen Hospital was a seven-year battle that was only won due to the federal LNP government funding the equipment itself, but it was a battle that was well worth it.

Clinical guidelines state that, for the best outcome, a stroke should be diagnosed within four hours. I am proud to inform the House that, recently at Bowen, Jack and his team completed a diagnosis in just seven minutes. Within 2½ hours, the patient had been diagnosed, treatment had commenced and the patient was receiving care in the Mackay Base Hospital. What a difference that will make to the quality of life of that particular patient.

However, Jack is not satisfied with exceeding standards. His goal is to change lives and it is a goal he is well on his way to achieving. Whilst absolutely necessary in diagnosis and treatment, CT scans can come with side effects such as nausea, vomiting, rashes and swelling, but not at Bowen. Jack's research into using a smaller cannula with a slower flow rate of contrast dye has resulted in no patients suffering those side effects while using up to 70 per cent less radiation and reduced volumes of contrast yet still providing high-quality medical imaging.

Those amazing results at the Bowen Hospital are yet another reason why I am proud to campaign for CT scanning facilities at the Ayr Hospital. Thousands of Burdekin locals and visitors have signed petitions calling for that essential equipment. I thank the minister for her response and her acknowledgement of the importance of that particular piece of equipment.

What Jack and his team have achieved in Bowen is proof positive that equipment is not just essential and beneficial to local patients; it is equipment that can produce benefits for patients across the state. Those benefits come from the passion and tenacity of medical professionals such as Jack and I know that those benefits can also be replicated in Ayr.

In closing, I want to thank the Bowen Probus Club for the opportunity to personally hear about Jack's passion and achievements. I also want to acknowledge the Bowen Probus Club members whose 20 years of service was acknowledged on the day. It was a proud moment for me to present those 15 members with certificates acknowledging their service.