



Speech By  
**Dale Last**


**MEMBER FOR BURDEKIN**

---

Record of Proceedings, 14 November 2023

## ADJOURNMENT

### Clermont

 **Mr LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (7.19 pm): The 2017 state redistribution saw Clermont added to the Burdekin electorate, and not long after that the local community raised the issue of a permanent doctor—or the lack thereof—at the Clermont Hospital. On the day the issue was raised with me, I gave a commitment to that community. I told the people of Clermont that I would fight for a permanent doctor no matter how long it took.

A study by Sir Denis Gray and colleagues from the University of Exeter and University of Manchester reviewed 22 studies before concluding that continuity of care—that is, seeing the same doctor—results in patients following medical advice more closely, a better uptake of preventive measures and fewer emergency admissions, and it can reduce mortality. It is somewhat ironic that this study was published at around the same time that we began our campaign to secure a permanent doctor for Clermont. The study concluded—

... the human side of medicine is still very important and even a matter of life and death.

With that conclusion in mind, I am pleased to advise that we have won that fight. Last Friday in Clermont I met Dr Tim Lane, who, along with his family, recently relocated to Clermont to take up the position as the town's permanent doctor. To say that Dr Tim has been welcomed with open arms would be a gross understatement. There is almost a different feel in Clermont since Dr Tim's arrival. While the residents appreciate the locums who did their best, the locals now have their very own doctor.

In a striking similarity to the findings of Sir Gray's study, today there is a feeling of confidence in Clermont—confidence that their doctor will get to know them, get to know their health challenges and be in a position to know when things are not right. While we may have won the fight, there is still more to do. The next steps are getting the doctor's surgery at the Clermont Hospital up and running—a goal Dr Tim hopes to achieve by late January. I am sure all members would agree that in this job you have to work hard for the wins, but for the people of Clermont this fight was well worth it. Thank you to the residents of Clermont for your faith and for your help in winning this fight, and a huge thanks also to Dr Tim.

On the same day that I met Dr Tim, I delivered a birthday cake to Clermont identity Bill Pointon. It was not just any cake. Bill was celebrating his 100th birthday at the home he lives in with his wife, Maureen. I am sure Bill would agree that Dr Tim was the perfect birthday gift. Bill and Maureen are still living in their home, Bill still goes up the street every day to exercise and he still gets out there in the garden. That is a real credit to him and Maureen. When you sit and listen to the story of his life, you appreciate what a great little community Clermont is.