




Speech By
Jennifer Howard

MEMBER FOR IPSWICH

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PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Ipswich Electorate, Health Services

 **Ms HOWARD** (Ipswich—ALP) (3.09 pm): This afternoon we are certainly hearing a lot of good news about health from this side of the House and I want to add to those stories. First, I congratulate the Cairns community on the announcements around health and all of the other fantastic announcements made this week. I commend the local members for their role in securing that funding.

I have long been a supporter and advocate for Ipswich getting its fair share of health funding. Ipswich is the fastest growing local government area in Queensland and our massive population growth is putting undue pressure on our existing hospital and health services. Over the past eight years I have been proud to be a part of the Palaszczuk Labor government that has committed to expanding our region's health capacity. We have a strong track record to prove it.

We are expanding the Ipswich Hospital with an initial investment of \$146.3 million for stage 1 of the expansion and \$710 million for stage 2 of the expansion, which will deliver another 200 beds. I am also pleased that our government has committed to building a new alcohol and other drug residential rehabilitation and withdrawal service in Ipswich. That facility will provide 45 beds for patients who need intensive treatment and support for substance abuse. There is a huge and growing demand for a service like this in Ipswich, and it is extremely important that people who are struggling with addiction and who want help to turn their lives around can get that sort of treatment close to home and close to family and loved ones who can support them.

During the 2020 state election, we made a commitment to build seven satellite hospitals across South-East Queensland and one is being delivered in Ripley. The other day my neighbour Lance McCallum and I went and looked at the facility. It turned out to be the same day that the Premier announced the primary healthcare model for that service. It will be a fantastic service and I know how well it will be received in the community.

The satellite hospital at Ripley will have a minor injury and illness walk-in clinic that will give free urgent medical care to patients, with a capacity to see 490 patients each week. It will also have consult and treatment rooms to provide appointments with Queensland Health doctors. Those consult and treatment rooms will have the capacity to deliver 800 outpatient appointments every single week. I know that will be well received in our fast-growing area. The hospital will also provide mental health specialist appointments, oral health, breast screen services, medical imaging and diagnostic services. Following the satellite hospital opening, we will commence development on the subacute care facility right next door. It is fantastic to see this hospital going ahead.

My neighbour and I also went to have a look at the site of the new \$10.9 million ambulance station that is being built in Ripley. It was wonderful to see that site and hear the excitement from the hardworking paramedics about the new facility that is being built. I am very excited to be the member for Ipswich and my thanks go to the government for supporting our needs.