




Speech By
Jennifer Howard

MEMBER FOR IPSWICH

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Ipswich, Health Services

 **Ms HOWARD** (Ipswich—ALP) (2.41 pm): Queensland Labor is the only party that will put the health of Queenslanders first. Since the Palaszczuk government was elected in 2015, we have been busy building new hospitals across Queensland and restoring the health workforce after it was decimated by the Newman LNP government. The Ripley Valley is one of the fastest growing areas in Australia. Therefore, when we announced in 2020 that one of the seven new satellite hospitals would be built in Ripley it made sense. That is why I was proud to join my colleagues the members for Jordan and Bundamba in welcoming the Premier and the Minister for Health to Ripley to cut the ribbon on the new Ripley Satellite Hospital on 13 August.

The Ripley Satellite Hospital has been open for around two weeks and already it has been a great success. West Moreton Health has reported that patient presentations to the hospital's Minor Injury and Illness Clinic have grown to up to 50 a day. Both the new Medicare Urgent Care Clinic, recently opened at North Ipswich, and the Ripley Satellite Hospital will greatly reduce pressure on Ipswich Hospital's emergency department, allowing it to focus on life-threatening injuries and illnesses. When it comes to health, the Palaszczuk government has delivered. Since 2015, Ipswich has received a windfall of investment to expand health services. This investment would not be forthcoming under an LNP government.

I am proud to announce that in the next few months we are going to open the doors to Ipswich Hospital's new 64-bed mental health unit, which will provide patient centred care for local people experiencing acute mental health concerns. The new mental health unit would not have been possible without the \$146 million delivered by the Palaszczuk government for stage 1 of the Ipswich Hospital expansion. Last year, a further \$710 million was committed for stage 2 of the expansion, which will deliver 200 new beds for Ipswich Hospital. It does not stop there. Planning is well underway for the new 90-bed subacute care facility to be built next to the Ripley Satellite Hospital.

We have provided this health investment for Ipswich because it is vital that local Ipswich people can access good public health care close to home when they need it. We know that the LNP will not deliver this health investment and we now know that they have a secret plan to slash health workers' wages. The Queensland LNP were in government for only one term but in that short time they did much damage to Ipswich health services. They slashed \$21 million from our local health budget and they sacked 86 health staff. The Newman LNP government put zero investment into the expansion of Ipswich Hospital. They put zero investment into delivering health services for the rapidly growing Ripley Valley area.

Meanwhile, the Palaszczuk government has already built and opened the new Ripley Satellite Hospital. We have commenced planning for the new Ripley subacute care facility. Stage 1 of the hospital expansion will be fully delivered once we open the new acute mental health unit this November. When it comes to delivering health investment for the City of Ipswich, the only government that will deliver is a Queensland Labor government.