




Speech By
Kim Richards

MEMBER FOR REDLANDS

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ADJOURNMENT

International Day of the Midwife; International Nurses Day; Redlands Electorate

 **Ms RICHARDS** (Redlands—ALP) (7.21 pm): Can I say how lovely it is to be in Cairns. I have a very deep affinity with Cairns. My sister and two nieces are Yorkeys Knob residents. It is a beautiful place to be. Last Friday was International Day of the Midwife and this Friday is International Nurses Day so it is again a fantastic opportunity for this House to recognise all of our amazing healthcare workers. They really are our health heroes. Our nurses do an absolutely incredible job day in, day out. It was lovely for the member for Capalaba and myself to be able to host coffee for the staff at Redland Hospital on Friday, mixed in with a couple of baby cuddles as we did a little tour through the maternity department. The babies were very cute indeed.

In the other good news in the health space, as I have said in the last three sittings, the satellite hospital down in Redland Bay is going absolutely gangbusters. Last week we were able to announce that the satellite hospital will have a minor injury and illness clinic that will be open from 8 am to 10 pm. What that means for my residents, particularly my Southern Moreton Bay Island community and the growing Southern Redland Bay region, is that they will be able to get health care closer to home. That clinic will provide walk-in urgent care for common injuries and illnesses, which is particularly important if you like playing sport on the weekend and you need to get an X-ray. They will have all of that mix of medical imaging and diagnostic services. That clinic will be absolutely fantastic.

In addition, it will build capacity in renal dialysis chairs and chemotherapy chairs. I do not think there is anybody in here who would not recognise how important renal dialysis and chemotherapy services are for our communities. It will also include consultant and treatment rooms for neurology services, cardiology services, older persons care, wound care and musculoskeletal care. What I am really proud of and that Minister D'Ath has been fantastic in assisting to deliver is that my community will be able to access mental healthcare services there. This is fantastic news for our Redlands community and it will take the pressure off Redland Hospital.

While I am on Redland Hospital, Hutchinson's is again going gangbusters on that site, with the 28-bed ward being delivered for the intensive care unit and 37 new beds. There will be a 30 per cent increase in the capacity of that hospital. Every day of the week our Palaszczuk government will continue to deliver great health care for our Redlands community and they will deliver it closer to home. I am extraordinarily proud of all the work we have going on in the Redlands.