




Speech By
Kim Richards

MEMBER FOR REDLANDS

Record of Proceedings, 25 May 2023

PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Redlands Satellite Hospital; Cairns Regional Sitzings of Parliament; National Volunteer Week

 **Ms RICHARDS** (Redlands—ALP) (2.09 pm): There is so much work going on out in the Redlands, but I particularly want to talk about our satellite hospital. As I have said in here time and time again, Darren, Josh and the team at Hutchinson Builders have done a fantastic job. That is nearly at practical completion. We have been able to announce the services mix that will come out of the satellite hospital. It will include a minor injury and illness clinic that will see the satellite hospital open seven days a week with access from 8 am and last patients being taken at 10 pm. This will take a huge amount of pressure off our emergency department. The clinic will provide walk-in urgent care for common injuries and illnesses, like strains and sprains—which is great for those foxy matches on the weekend—broken noses, minor head injuries, infections, burns, toothache, earache, you name it.

In addition, it will also importantly have renal dialysis, chemotherapy and medical imaging that will include ultrasound, X-ray and pathology. This is a fantastic service for my island community. It is bringing health care closer to home. It is what our Palaszczuk government does every single day of the week—deliver better healthcare services for Queensland. I am proud of this project. I am proud of where we have located it. I am so glad I was able to advocate to have it located down near the marina so it could be accessed by the island community and our growing southern Redlands end. It will also provide consultancy services in neurology, cardiology, older persons care, wound care and musculoskeletal services. As I said, it will make a huge difference to health care and take pressure off our Redland Hospital.

Following on from the Cairns sitting week, with my good friend the member for Cook—a big esso, sissy—I had the incredible opportunity to experience very different islands up there. There are 200 islands across the Torres Strait that are extraordinarily diverse and sit in a very different space to my Southern Moreton Bay Islands. I am looking forward to experiencing that with the member for Cook so she can see what islands off South-East Queensland look like. Saibai Island was fascinating. It is the most northern island off the coast of Australia. I give a huge shout-out to principal Michael Richards and the students at that school. What beautiful leaders they will be in the future. That was a lovely visit to the local councillors and the healthcare staff. Thank you for sharing your time and your experiences with me.

Last week saw the conclusion of Volunteer Week and I do not think there is anybody in this chamber who does not love the work of our volunteers—whether they are on the front line of our Rural Fire Service, our SES, our Volunteer Marine Rescue, our P&Cs, our sports clubs or our domestic violence organisations. There are so many across the Redlands. It was great to host them on Sunday. Happy National Volunteer Week.

(Time expired)