




Speech By
Kim Richards

MEMBER FOR REDLANDS

Record of Proceedings, 12 September 2023

ADJOURNMENT

Rural Fire Service; Redlands Satellite Hospital

 **Ms RICHARDS** (Redlands—ALP) (7.22 pm): I do not think there are many members who do not have a yellow ribbon on their lapel today. It is Yellow Ribbon Day and I cannot thank our rural firefighters enough. When I speak about our rural firefighters, I need to give a huge shout-out to our Russell Island rural firefighters. They displayed an outstanding effort. They are an amazing team, like all of our rural firefighters across the state. I am lucky to have four incredible rural firefighter brigades across my island communities. To Larry, Deb, Kev, Kane and Maria and the multitude of volunteers who work tirelessly supporting our communities, I thank you very much for everything you do. Today we sincerely and deeply thank you for your services to our community.

In talking about all of those people on the front line and our heroes, I also want to thank the Minister for Health. Last Monday we were able to show our very deep appreciation for Byron Tyrer, the first paramedic on the scene of the Russell Island house fires. What he was confronted with was something that is unimaginable to all of us in here. His work, bravery and courage—along with all of those frontline responders on the day—was simply incredible. Byron had his first day back on the job this week. Can you believe that he and his partner Paul, who is the officer in charge on Russell Island, attended an incident with Ross Thompson on Russell Island. He had a heart attack but they were able to support and bring him back and they have been able to meet with Ross this week back in his home. To Byron and Paul and all of our frontline service personnel, the work you do is simply incredible and we really cannot thank you enough.

I want to talk about our satellite hospital because it has been opened for two weeks in the Redlands. It is something I am extraordinarily proud of. When we talk about legacy, that for me is an absolute cracker of a piece of health infrastructure to leave for our communities. William Lee, a resident from Cleveland, was the first patient to receive cancer therapy in the unit. He is now saving hours in travel time from the city by getting his treatment at the satellite hospital. It is fantastic for him to be able to do that.

I did not think I would be back there so soon after its opening, but my niece had her girlfriend from uni staying over. She woke up at my place on Father's Day and was really crook, so we went down to the satellite hospital and she saw doctors, nurses and the physio within an hour and a half. That was incredible. Renee Nuie was a contributor on one of our Facebook groups in the Redlands. Her daughter did her knee at dancing so they headed to the satellite hospital. She said that the staff were so friendly, kind and attentive and she was able to see someone quickly and have X-rays done straightaway. The comments that followed on this page simply speak to what an asset that is for our Redlands community.