




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR BUDERIM

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Rockhampton, PET Scanner; Mooloolah River Interchange

 **Mr MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (2.37 pm): There is a chronic shortage of PET scanners across Queensland. PET scanners are required to provide doctors with the imaging they need to diagnose and treat Queenslanders who are suffering from cancer. Across this state, patients have told me that they are required to wait anywhere between three and eight weeks for an appointment requiring the use of a PET scanner. However, in Rockhampton that problem is even worse. In Rockhampton, patients cannot access a PET scanner at all. Rockhampton cancer patients have to travel to Mackay or Bundaberg when they are referred for a PET scan.

Last week, along with our Rockhampton community champion Donna Kirkland, I met with local mum and cancer patient Amanda and her husband, Nathan. Together they told Amanda's story of the anguish of being diagnosed with stage 4 cancer and 'having to wait three weeks to find out if you only have three months to live'. They told of the pain of the hours-long drive up and back to Mackay, just to access medical services that Amanda needed in her hour of need. They told of the financial impact of a two-day journey just days after major surgery and how their absence affected their children. Amanda's story is just one of many in Rockhampton where, I am advised, 1,400 people are diagnosed with cancer each year.

The state government have said that a PET scanner is not required in Rockhampton. They have not said why and they have not produced any evidence other than rolling out members of the CQHHS executive to front the media. Where are the members for Rockhampton and Keppel in fighting for their community? We know that almost a quarter of the most serious category 1 cancer patients are not seen within the clinically recommended time frame at Rockhampton Hospital. Disturbingly, this is replicated right across Queensland. The message to the members for Rockhampton and Keppel is simple: start fighting for your community. Start voicing the concerns of your community, who have had enough of being taken for granted.

Listen to Amanda and Nathan, listen to the hundreds of Rockhampton and Keppel constituents who suffer unnecessarily every time they need to travel for hours to access what is a routine health service for a cancer patient. Listen to the doctors and nurses who want the best for their patients. If the members for Rockhampton and Keppel will not fight for their communities, then I know that Donna Kirkland and Nigel Hutton will. Donna and Nigel will because they care. Donna and Nigel will because they know that their community deserves a voice. The LNP will not stop fighting to ensure every Queenslanders has access to the health services that they deserve.

With the short time I have left, I would like to address the Mooloolah River Interchange which has been cut by the new transport minister. It was cut after this government knocked down 84 homes and resumed 130 homes. They have knocked down those homes and decided not to proceed with the project. There are 84 families on the street because of this government for a project they have cut. Queenslanders deserve better.