



Speech By  
**Cynthia Lui**


**MEMBER FOR COOK**

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Record of Proceedings, 14 February 2024

**MOTION**

**Miles Labor Government**

 **Ms LUI** (Cook—ALP) (5.21 pm): I rise to speak against the private member's motion that was introduced this afternoon. When it comes to health, every day I will stand with Labor to fight for the best interests of my community. Our government is throwing everything at the health system to make sure that Queenslanders get the world-class health care they deserve. We are building the new beds and employing the frontline staff our state needs to keep up with demand. The LNP continues to show that they are more interested in spreading fear and misinformation about our health system in the community than they are in seeing real solutions.

I will always fight for better health services and outcomes for communities across the Cook electorate. On this side of the House, we know that how we build hospital capacity is by investing in our hospitals and investing in more beds, and that is exactly what we are doing. We have delivered upgrades to the Thursday Island Hospital and expanded services to include a CT scanner, a hydraulics project and a central reverse osmosis unit. We have upgraded the Murray Island Primary Health Care Centre. We have invested an additional \$2.02 million in integrated ear, nose and throat services including outpatient services in the community being expanded to approximately 30 outpatient clinics per year.

The Cooktown Multipurpose Health Service has now been recognised as a training post. This allows registrars to undertake part of their core vocational training in training facilities, delivering high-quality holistic and culturally safe health care to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. It also encourages the long-term retention of general practitioners in our communities.

We have established the Torres and Cape HHS Public Health Unit, which offers a range of services including communicable disease control, immunisation support, health surveillance, tuberculosis management and public health promotion and education. That is in addition to the redevelopment of the Mossman emergency department, a \$1 million upgrade to the Mareeba Hospital operating theatre, the restoration of vital endoscopy services and the installation of a brand new CT scanner. We have committed \$250 million for the expansion of the Cairns Hospital, which will deliver 96 new beds and include a new state-of-the-art surgical centre with 32 beds.

There is so much that Labor and members on this side of the House are doing to support health in communities throughout Far North Queensland. I look after one of the most complex communities in Far North Queensland. To stand here and listen to those opposite talk about health and what Labor is not doing in Far North Queensland is just ridiculous. Those opposite talk about health workers as being duds and not worthy of entitlements. That is just shameful.

In partnership with the Queensland Aboriginal and Islander Health Council, the Care Coordination Service Centre is a one stop shop for complex patient support. It has been developed as a single point of contact for patients to help them navigate the health system. That is critical for patients in my electorate. It means that vulnerable patients from across the Torres, cape, Cairns and hinterland regions can access the care that they need at the right time and closer to home.

Our rural and remote health facilities do an incredible job serving their communities, but some are ageing and the time is right to update and replace them so that they can continue to meet the needs of their communities. Our \$1 billion Building Rural and Remote Health Program is doing just that. The \$14.8 million Cow Bay Primary Health Centre is a huge win for my community in the Cow Bay and Daintree area. We know that this new centre will mean that accessible and modern health care can be delivered for generations to come.

Residents of the Daintree and the Cook electorate should be assured that our Labor government is delivering on its commitment to improve rural health facilities across Queensland no matter where you live. That is a vast contrast with those opposite. The LNP knows only cuts. When they were in charge, 430 frontline health jobs were cut from the Far North. More than \$2 million in funding was cut to nine local community health organisations. In addition, \$16.4 million in funding was slashed from the 46 statewide community health organisations that provide local services in this area.

I am proud to stand with Labor. I am proud to stand on this side of the House and I am proud to support communities in Far North Queensland and across Queensland, all day, every day.