



Speech By  
**Hon. Grace Grace**


**MEMBER FOR MCCONNEL**

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Record of Proceedings, 6 March 2024

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**Women, Bio Industries**

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for State Development and Infrastructure, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (9.48 am): The Miles government is not only proudly creating jobs for the industries of today but also investing in the industries of the future. Key ways to do this are to bring existing businesses in emerging industries together to share expertise, provide funding, create networking opportunities and ensure regional businesses receive targeted support. That includes our emerging bioindustry, which the assistant minister and member for Mackay and I had the opportunity to witness firsthand last week at Mackay's biohub. We announced a new state development area of over 900 hectares at Racecourse Mill and Rosella which will accommodate the industries of the future in Mackay. As it is Women's Week, I am pleased to advise the House that my department's women in bio and health series has been a great success, sharing expertise and connecting women to attract and retain their talent in this fast growing sector. My department held its first industry forum for women in biomedicine and biotechnology in February last year and our next Women in Bio event is coming up in May.

On this side of the House, we support our emerging industries and we support women working within these industries, delivering the targeted professional development they have requested. Our \$1 billion Women and Girls' Health Strategy has some incredible initiatives to support Queensland women right now, but medical technology is always changing and the development can be rapid so I am pleased to advise the House that applications open today for the next round of our \$2.7 million Queensland Biomedical Business Attraction Program which will bring more world-class biomedical projects to the Sunshine State. Following feedback we have extended the application window to 31 May. This round will provide up to \$1.5 million in grants for eligible Queensland-based entities to develop a biomedical product.

The program will raise awareness of Queensland's capabilities in the state's world-class biomedical sector and encourage interstate and international collaboration. Recipients in previous rounds include the University of Queensland, Queensland University of Technology and Patheon Biologics which manufactures complex innovative drugs from cells. Through their previous grant they attracted a new international client. I look forward to announcing this round's successful recipients later this year. On this side of the House, we see women's health as a priority for government, not a distraction. It is clear the Miles government backs our businesses, backs our emerging industries and backs, more importantly, Queensland women.