




Speech By
Jennifer Howard

MEMBER FOR IPSWICH

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Ipswich Electorate

 **Ms HOWARD** (Ipswich—ALP) (2.42 pm): Every day I am proud to serve in a Queensland Labor government that is committed to delivering better health services for Ipswich. Since our first term we have invested in a massive health infrastructure build that has expanded our capacity to deliver better health services for the people of Ipswich. The rate of construction has been nothing short of phenomenal. In August last year we opened the brand new Ripley Satellite Hospital and in January this year the hospital saw its 10,000th patient. Last month I also attended the official opening of two new recently completed health facilities in Ipswich. One of them was the new mental health acute inpatients building in a residential neighbourhood. It can be tricky doing that sort of work, but we did it. I also went to the new Ripley Ambulance Station and officially opened that.

The new \$104.6 million mental health acute inpatient service provides 64 beds for adults and older persons experiencing mental health crises. This new facility has healing and wellbeing at the heart of its design which is something really important to me. It has been designed to create a therapeutic environment that supports recovery and it has a number of beautiful features like natural lighting, courtyards, gardens, local artwork and a kitchen to support independent living. I have a word on some of those artists. Jane duRand is a ceramicist locally. She did the ceramics on the outside. She went to Paris straight after and did a huge project over there, so she is internationally recognised and it is beautiful to see her work at that facility. Rachael Sarra has done a gorgeous painting for the facility. She has done the overpass. Ian Friend, a local artist, has done work inside the facility which is beautiful, as has Jodi Bowen. We have really fantastic local artists and it was wonderful to see all of their work displayed there.

I want to thank West Moreton Health for its engagement and consultation with the local community during the project. As I mentioned before, building in a residential neighbourhood can be tricky. The area where we built this facility is really quite built up, but we listened to the locals. We listened to their feedback. We had a really important community consultation, and everybody is just as excited as we are about this new facility. Having better mental health services close to home is really exciting. I want to pay tribute to the health minister, who came out to do the official opening. She was really thoughtful in the way that she engaged with staff. Damian showed us around, and obviously it was a project of love.

Stage 2 of the Ipswich Hospital expansion will deliver an additional 200 beds. It is back on track to begin construction shortly. This shows that the Miles government is serious about improving ambulance services and health. Further, we want to make sure that they stay in public hands and will be free of charge for all.