



Speech By  
**Hon. Leanne Linard**


**MEMBER FOR NUDGE**

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## ADJOURNMENT

### Women and Girls' Health Strategy

 **Hon. LM LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Innovation) (7.10 pm): Too many women have experienced feeling dismissed or unheard when seeking the health care that they need. Our mothers, our grandmothers, our daughters, our sisters—most can probably cast their mind to a time that they have had to push to be heard, to have their pain taken seriously, to get the treatment they need and the care that they deserve. I, like many Queensland women, am not a stranger to this feeling and I have heard from women in my electorate of Nudgee stories with similar concerns. When the health minister released our new Women and Girls' Health Strategy this week, a first in our state's history, I thought and reflected on the experience of my mother in her mid-40s, the age that I am now. For two years she was told that her pain and growing abdominal discomfort was bloating, menopause and, ultimately, just something in her head—anything but the very real pain that she was experiencing. At 46 she was diagnosed with advanced stage ovarian cancer and died a week after my 28th birthday. I do not know what an earlier diagnosis might have meant to her life and to mine, but women know their bodies and they should be heard.

This is not the experience that our government wants for Queensland women and girls. While I absolutely commend each and every healthcare worker in our state, including my husband—himself a clinical educator—and I commend the excellent care that I have received in other stages in life, including during my pregnancies and hospitalisation of my children at different times, there is more work to do to improve the system as a whole, and that is what we are doing. We are acting. We have heard the voices of over 12,000 Queenslanders that helped to shape our new Women and Girls' Health Strategy, a first in our state's history—a strategy that will deliver a huge expansion to women's health care with things like free nurse-led women's health clinics, better care for pelvic pain and endometriosis, public access to IVF for those facing medical conditions which risk their fertility and a dedicated women's health helpline, just to name a few.

Like many Queensland women I am a mother and, like many, I have experienced the grief of the loss of a pregnancy or, in my case, two. To know that our new strategy will also include increased mental health resourcing to support Queensland women through this and other deeply challenging maternal experiences is to be assured that the support needed to navigate such a difficult time in a woman's life will be accessible. Our government is one that is here for women, whether it is delivering on their health needs, acting on their right to physical safety or their economic security. It is only a Labor government that will truly hear, respect and respond to the voices of all Queensland women.