



Speech By
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QUEENSLAND INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL RESEARCH BILL 2025

 **Miss DOOLAN** (Pumicestone—LNP) (4.35 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Queensland Institute of Medical Research Bill 2025. This bill is about strengthening one of Queensland's most respected scientific institutions and ensuring it remains at the cutting edge of medical discovery. For nearly 80 years, the Queensland Institute of Medical Research, QIMR, has been a cornerstone of our health and research community. It began in 1945 with just seven staff working in a small hut at Victoria Park. Today it is home to around 1,000 scientists, clinicians, students and support staff. Its researchers are world leaders in cancer research, infectious disease control, mental health, genetics and population health. Later this year QIMR will celebrate its 80th anniversary, marking eight decades of service to science, medicine and the people of Queensland.

The current legislation that governs QIMR was written in 1945. While it has served us well, it no longer reflects the modern standards of governance or the realities of contemporary medical research. The bill before the House repeals the old act and replaces it with a modern and practical framework that supports integrity, transparency and good governance. It allows QIMR to continue competing globally for talent, funding and partnerships while remaining accountable to government and the public.

The bill updates the way QIMR can recognise and reward its researchers through commercialised incentive payments under the current act. Bonuses can only be paid to those formally recognised as inventors, which leaves out many others who play important roles in developing new discoveries. The new framework allows QIMR to recognise all contributors who help bring new ideas to life. It sets sensible caps of \$10 million per item of intellectual property and \$5 million per person per financial year, with appropriate oversight for larger payments. This approach is fair, is more flexible and better reflects how modern research works.

The bill also modernises governance arrangements. It transfers responsibility for appointing council members from the Governor in Council to the Minister for Health, which will allow timely appointments while maintaining integrity checks. It provides for an acting director to be appointed for up to six months, ensuring continuity of leadership when needed. Strong governance means QIMR can focus on what it does best: delivering research that saves and improves lives.

There are also important integrity measures in the bill. It introduces criminal history disclosure requirements for council members and ensures any significant concerns about the institute's administration or financial position must be reported to the minister. It clarifies how QIMR can manage gifts, bequests and donations so that community contributions can be used effectively and responsibly. These updates bring QIMR in line with other modern Queensland health legislation and ensures public confidence in its operations.

The work of QIMR has a direct impact on the lives of Queenslanders. Its researchers have helped to develop new cancer therapies, improved understanding of mental health and identified genetic markers for serious disease. One of QIMR's recent studies revealed key genetic differences in how depression affects males and females, paving the way for more targeted and effective treatments.

Another partnership between QIMR and Kazia Therapeutics has led to a promising new drug to treat metastatic breast cancer, now progressing through clinical trials internationally. These are real achievements that give real hope to patients and families.

As QIMR marks its 80th year, this bill ensures it has the right legislative foundation to continue its vital work well into the future. It reflects the Crisafulli government's commitment to supporting world-class medical research, good governance and the health of all Queenslanders. I commend the bill to the House.