



Speech By
David Lee

MEMBER FOR HERVEY BAY

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ADJOURNMENT

Hervey Bay Hospital, MRI Machine

 **Mr LEE** (Hervey Bay—LNP) (9.26 pm): Leading up to the 2024 state election I was contacted by Helen Schmidt. Helen informed me that she had awoken one morning to discover her husband, Doug, was in a diabetic coma. An ambulance was called and Doug was rushed to the Hervey Bay Hospital. He was transferred to the intensive care unit, where he was placed on a ventilator to assist with his breathing. Doctors needed to obtain an MRI of Doug's brain to determine whether he had any brain damage.

An MRI is a non-invasive imaging technology that produces three-dimensional, detailed anatomical images. Helen was astounded to hear that the Hervey Bay Hospital did not have an MRI machine and that Doug would have to be transferred to a private hospital for an MRI. This and many other Hervey Bay Hospital MRI stories stress the urgent need for an MRI machine at the hospital. That is why I am visibly, vocally and actively supporting Helen's petition for an MRI machine at Hervey Bay Hospital.

It beggars belief that a growing population of our magnitude does not have an MRI machine. According to 2021 Australian Bureau of Statistics data, Fraser Coast, which includes Hervey Bay, has an estimated 31 per cent of our population aged 65 and over, and we have the highest rates of chronic disease, as a proportion of the Fraser Coast population, in Australia. Our Fraser Coast median age is 51 against a Queensland median age of 38.

I want to acknowledge Helen, Emanuel, Paula, Sonya, Vanessa and Phil for their tremendous efforts in promoting the petition to our community. You know when you are on the right side of an argument when over 6,800 Queenslanders stand shoulder to shoulder supporting our fight for an MRI machine at Hervey Bay Hospital.

Labor ostensibly did nothing to advocate for an MRI machine. Instead, Labor misleadingly claimed to have 'delivered' a fully funded \$40 million Hervey Bay ED expansion that was delayed for years and subsequently blew out to \$94 million. Labor further falsely claimed to have delivered a multistorey Hervey Bay Hospital car park. Other desperate and false claims included a new Hervey Bay Fire and Rescue Station and a River Heads pontoon.

In closing, I will continue to tirelessly and persistently advocate for our Fraser Coast residents to get a Hervey Bay Hospital MRI machine. My community desperately needs the right care at the right place and at the right time, and there are over 6,800 petitioners who agree with me.