



Speech By
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MEMBER FOR ROCKHAMPTON

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QUEENSLAND INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL RESEARCH BILL 2025

 **Mrs KIRKLAND** (Rockhampton—LNP) (4.48 pm): I rise today to speak on the Queensland Institute of Medical Research Bill 2025. Over time need arises within an ever-changing world to pay particular attention to legislation, processes and systems to ensure that measures of protection and intention of delivery are up to date with the modern environment for which they are purposed. This bill addresses a number of reforms in replacing the Queensland Institute of Medical Research Act 1945 with the Queensland Institute of Medical Research Bill 2025. Reforms in this bill will improve functionality, governance and continuity throughout staffing transitions for QIMR.

The current act no longer meets the legislative expectations or the governance standards appropriate for a modern, world-class research institution, especially one of QIMR's size and complexity. This is an institute that is home to approximately 1,000 scientists, support staff and students. It is recognised the world over for phenomenal and groundbreaking research across multiple medical conditions that provide better health outcomes for people not only in Queensland but also right across the world. The Crisafulli government are committed to providing better healthcare outcomes for all Queenslanders. By improving the administration, the governance and the integrity of the Queensland Institute of Medical Research, this bill goes towards that and the flow-on benefits will indeed be felt right across the world.

I would like to thank those 1,000 scientists, students and support staff at the QIMR for the incredible work that they do. Research breakthroughs come through the sharing of ideas and much collaboration. The current act only permits bonuses for employees who are classified as discoverers or inventors. This actually includes many more people, including collaborators who bring significant contribution towards the institution's work. This bill is looking to clearly define functions and membership requirements and the integrity safeguards through reforms to achieve better functionality within the QIMR that is fit for purpose. This bill replaces the word 'bonuses' with 'commercialised incentive payments' and broadens the eligibility criteria. The broadened criteria will ensure that rewards go to a more comprehensive range of research contributors.

It is important to note that the QIMR is supportive of changes proposed within this bill, including those that refine the size of QIMR council member caps to a more manageable membership number. This will promote more focused and efficient decision-making. We cannot expect our professionals to continue this great work under an outdated act. We need to unlock legislation that releases QIMR to continue to deliver the excellent research that they have become renowned for.

I would like to speak to the significance of the work that QIMR does. They work in the space of cancer research, brain research and chronic diseases such as haemochromatosis, which some of the opposition have mentioned. I bring this up because my family are impacted by this chronic disease. Indeed, my husband was diagnosed with haemochromatosis a number of years ago. We were unaware of the consequences of this and how it would affect our lifestyle. The research the QIMR does can help

people right across our country to discover how they can better approach their health needs. I thank them for a world-first initiative in designing, collecting and analysing data on patients with haemochromatosis.

The right foundations are what we are seeing through the delivery of this bill—foundations that will progress, promote and provide better health outcomes for the people across Queensland, Australia and, indeed, the world. I would like to extend my congratulations to the Queensland Institute of Medical Research on 80 years of delivering this world-class research and development. We look forward to seeing what it is that they bring to the table in the coming years, the next decade and from there on and the impact that will have on community members, one by one. I thank the Minister for Health for bringing the bill before the House. I commend the bill.