



Speech By
Mark Robinson

MEMBER FOR CLEVELAND

PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Redland Hospital, Palliative Care Unit

 **Dr ROBINSON** (Cleveland—LNP) (3.35 pm): I am pleased to announce today that a palliative care service has been launched at Redland Hospital. After four years of advocacy work, Cleveland and the Redlands community has finally got the palliative care services it has needed for so long. This is another major step that the LNP government has taken towards building a better bayside.

Metro South health is expanding its palliative care services in order to provide quality, comfortable care for Redland city residents who are approaching the end of their lives. Metro South health has opened 10 new publicly funded palliative care beds in Redland city. Five of the beds are located in an in-patient ward at Redland Hospital while five are equivalent services in the community or virtual beds. Having both the hospital service and home service increases the choice and treatment options for palliative care patients in Cleveland, Redland city and south-east bayside Brisbane.

The service is made up of a multidisciplinary team which includes a palliative care medical specialist, doctors, nurses, a councillor, a social worker and an occupational therapist. This team works alongside local GPs and other providers to provide quality and appropriate care to clients. The aim is to improve the quality of life for people with a life-limiting illness and their families and carers. The service provides pain and symptom management, end-of-life care, education regarding medication, access to grief and bereavement support and emotional support for clients, family and friends. All 10 beds are now open and fully staffed and being utilised. Already 30 people have needed the service. Some 14 patients were admitted for their whole episode to the Redland Hospital palliative care ward beds. A further 16 patients have needed the in-home care service.

The credit for this achievement must go to motivated local Cleveland and Redlands residents like Gordon Somes, John Neilson, Graham Maynard; Queensland Health and hospital staff such as Professor Liz Reymond and Brett Bricknell; the Metro South board and the health minister; and supportive local media. My part in this wonderful outcome for the Redlands community has been small. It has involved speeches to the parliament, a media campaign involving mainly newspapers—the *Bayside Bulletin*, the *Redland Times* and the *Courier-Mail*—newsletters to the electorate, a petition signed by over 3,000 people, meetings with Queensland Health experts and several representations from my office in Cleveland to successive health ministers.

The \$5.9 million funding has been provided as an LNP commitment and personal commitment that I made to address the lack of subacute beds available in the Redlands area. The LNP Newman government is delivering on its commitment to expand health services in Cleveland and the Redlands.