




Speech By
Dr Christian Rowan

MEMBER FOR MOGGILL

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ADJOURNMENT

St Stephen's Hospital

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (6.25 pm): As the Liberal National Party shadow minister for communities, disability services and seniors and shadow minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander partnerships, it gives me great pleasure to recognise in this House the incredible achievement of UnitingCare Health's St Stephen's Hospital which is located in Hervey Bay. I am referring to the formal achievement and recognition of St Stephen's as the first Australian hospital to achieve stage 7 HIMSS certification—the highest level of certification for its inpatient electronic medical record. The Health Information and Management Systems Society is an esteemed international accreditation body.

At a time when countless industries—for example, if we look at banking, online shopping or, alternatively, airlines—have sought to improve the ways they conduct their business and enhance customer engagement strategies, what have they done exactly? They have fully embraced the digital revolution in which health care is significantly lagging behind such industries, but surely is more prevalent and pertinent to all Australians.

By becoming Australia's first fully integrated digital private hospital, St Stephen's is utilising technology and data to pioneer individualised care to patients and thus improve patient safety, quality of care and health outcomes. What is more, thanks to this adoption patients at St Stephen's are benefitting from shorter lengths of stay due to innovative technology supporting the work of nurses and doctors. In other words, no-one is in hospital any longer than they need to be. Not only does this bode well for patients during their stay, but the follow-on effects of this digital adoption means better clinical outcomes, better health care and more sustainable options for the future healthcare provision of each and every patient.

The significance of this achievement really cannot be overstated. HIMSS is an international not-for-profit organisation that is dedicated to improving health care in quality, safety, cost-effectiveness and access through the best use of information technology and health management systems. For Hervey Bay patients, the adoption of the health standard, as advocated by this society, means that patients are receiving the best care made possible by the use of digital technology and on par with some of the best hospitals in the United States, the United Kingdom and the Middle East.

It was worth noting that this achievement from level 6 to level 7 has been made possible thanks to the terrific work of the hospital's own doctors, nurses and clinical staff. To achieve this level of certification, St Stephen's had to have the data and statistics to show that its nurses and doctors were actively utilising patient information to demonstrably improve patient care. On behalf of the Liberal National Party, I express my hope that this serves as an inspiration for other Queensland, indeed Australian, hospitals to follow.

This development and its implications for residents and the clinical outcomes, including ageing Queenslanders in the Hervey Bay and the Wide Bay regions, particularly those with chronic complex diseases, deserve recognition within our great democratic institution the Queensland parliament. Congratulations to all UnitingCare Queensland staff and visiting medical practitioners involved in achieving this outcome.

Having attended the annual AMA Queensland Past Presidents dinner last night, I know that current president Dr Dilip Dhupelia and many former presidents, including NEHTA chair Dr Steve Hambleton, Queensland Clinical Senate chair Dr Alex Markwell, Dr Bill Boyd and many others, recognise the significance of this achievement as well as the LNP's hardworking local member for Hervey Bay, Ted Sorensen MP.

(Time expired)