




Speech By
Dr Christian Rowan

MEMBER FOR MOGGILL

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Wesley Medical Research, 25th Anniversary

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (2.36 pm): I rise to inform the House of the 25th anniversary of the establishment and launch of Queensland's second oldest medical research institute, known as Wesley Medical Research. For the past 25 years Wesley Medical Research has continued to push the frontiers of medicine, delivering real translational health benefits to patients whilst also contributing to medical and health knowledge across the world. As the official research organisation for UnitingCare, the research undertaken by Wesley Medical Research aims to span all UnitingCare hospitals including the Wesley Hospital, St Andrew's War Memorial Hospital, the Buderim Private Hospital and St Stephen's Hospital located in Hervey Bay. In addition to its hospital remit, Wesley Medical Research is also focused on improving our health standards, particularly in rural and remote communities.

The majority of the research conducted will result in tangible medical advancements, better healthcare practices and lasting patient benefits. Wesley Medical Research has encouraged and supported research initiated by people who understand the value of clinical research. Doctors, nurses and allied health professionals across UnitingCare hospitals are all actively involved. These hardworking and dedicated professionals are driven by a desire to provide patients with better treatment options and improve quality of life outcomes for a range of health conditions. Wesley Medical Research also operates Queensland's largest tissue bank. This critical resource collects, stores and supplies tissue, blood and associated data for researchers in Australia and across the globe, collaborating with biomedical researchers to understand and ultimately find cures for many debilitating diseases including dementia.

As a previous member of the Wesley Medical Research Board for two years, I saw firsthand the positive impacts of Wesley Medical Research to patients across Queensland. This year alone Wesley Medical Research has enabled 781 patients to participate in research trials across a variety of areas including cancer, neurology, immunology and cardiology. Currently, research staff are working on several key projects including novel therapies to better treat Tourette syndrome, improving the early diagnosis of coeliac disease by attempting to validate a simple prick test that could potentially identify the disease within 10 minutes, and repurposing drugs to inhibit the development of malignant brain tumours.

As both a specialist physician and also past president of the Australian Medical Association of Queensland and the Rural Doctors Association of Queensland, I understand the importance of investing in medical research to improve health outcomes for all Queenslanders. I welcome the federal Morrison LNP government's recent \$440 million investment in world-leading health and medical research projects across Australia. A total of 298 new projects will be receiving funding under this scheme distributed by the National Health and Medical Research Council.

It was an honour to join Associate Professor John Allan, Emeritus Professor John Pearn, Martin Albrecht AC, board chair Peter Allen and other current and former board members and Wesley Medical Research staff and supporters at Government House earlier this month where a formal reception was

hosted by chief patron, His Excellency the Honourable Paul de Jersey AC, Governor of Queensland, to celebrate the 25th anniversary of Wesley Medical Research. I wish Wesley Medical Research all the best of the future given its vital role in delivering translational health benefits to patients.