



David Littleproud MP

Federal Member for Maranoa

Media Statement

November 16, 2016

Federal Government funding extended to support McGrath Breast Care Nurse in Maranoa

VITAL care and support offered by McGrath Breast Care Nurses in regional Queensland will receive a boost with the Coalition Government today announcing new funding, Federal Member for Maranoa David Littleproud said.

“Today we announced \$20.5 million in new funding for McGrath Breast Care Nurses to ensure ongoing support for those fighting this disease,” Mr Littleproud said.

“In Maranoa, this funding will bolster the valuable work carried out by the McGrath Breast Care Nurses in Dalby, Kingaroy, Warwick and Roma to support these regions and broader communities.

“The tyranny of distance between home and treatment is acutely felt for rural patients and this funding will go a long way to support and care for women fighting breast cancer across Maranoa.

“McGrath Breast Care Nurses are specially trained and their support extends from patient care to their families and carers – starting from diagnosis and continuing throughout treatment.

“The role these nurses play in a patient’s treatment involves being the main liaison between the patients and specialists, who coordinate their treatment and I can only imagine this role would be invaluable during a very difficult time.

“It’s estimated breast cancer is the third most commonly diagnosed cancer and the most common cancer for Australian women and this funding will mean women fighting breast cancer will be able to access care support.”

Since 2013, Commonwealth-funded McGrath Breast Care Nurses have supported about 15,000 Australians and their families.

This new four-year extension to the Federal Government’s previous funding agreement with the McGrath Foundation of \$18.5 million will ensure this valuable support and coordination of care continues for patients with breast cancer.

This announcement is in addition to the Coalition Government's 2015 listing of Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) medications for secondary breast cancer: pertuzumab (Perjeta®), trastuzumab (Herceptin®) and trastuzumab emtansine (Kadcyla®) for HER2-positive metastatic breast cancer. Without government subsidy, these medicines would cost consumers more than \$82,700 per person each year to access.

Last month, the Federal Government also listed Tamoxifen (Nolvadex-D) on the PBS as a treatment to reduce the risk of breast cancer in women identified with a moderate to high lifetime risk of developing breast cancer.

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