



David Littleproud MP

Federal Member for Maranoa

Media Statement

January 22, 2019

\$12 million for more specialist clinical services in rural and regional Queensland

To help keep bush hearts pumping and healthy, the Coalition Federal Government will invest \$12 million in funding to Heart of Australia to provide a mobile cardiology service, Maranoa MP David Littleproud said today.

“This means that in my electorate, current clinical services being delivered in the areas of Dalby, Goondiwindi, Stanthorpe, St George, Charleville, Quilpie, Roma, Barcaldine, Blackall, Longreach and Winton will be secured by this funding,” Mr Littleproud said.

Funding will support two mobile specialist clinics and help to build a third service which will service Northern Queensland and the Cape, bringing the total number communities serviced by Heart of Australia across Queensland from 16 to 25.

“I’m a strong advocate for greater access to specialised health services in the bush and this funding means patients won’t have to travel hundreds-of-kilometres to get a check-up and only have to step on board a mobile clinic in their town and get appropriate and timely care,” Mr Littleproud said.

“I represent almost half of Queensland – including some of the most remote communities in our state – and it’s hard to listen to statistics which reveal remote and very remote areas have heart disease hospitalisation and death rates 30% higher than in major cities.

“That’s why I support the Heart of Australia because its mobile cardiology service has had a significant impact on reducing the severity and incidence of cardiovascular disease since 2014.”

The mobile specialist clinics aim to deliver about 930 clinic days a year, see up to 18,000 patients and will give 24 specialist education sessions a year.

Funding will be provided over three years from July 1, 2019 to significantly expand the reach and scope of these vital services. The service supports investigation, diagnosis and consultation facilities, host telemedicine consultations, teleconferencing in addition to creating more jobs.

The \$12 million will improve a wide range of outreach health services to communities in need in north east Queensland, including cardiology, endocrinology, sleep medicine, psychiatry, geriatric medicine, immunology, general medicine, neurology, gastroenterology and gynaecology.

Diagnostic medical equipment will also be supported including cardiac stress testing, ECG monitoring, 24 hour heart rhythm-monitoring, cardiac ultrasound, colposcopy, sleep apnoea testing and device fitting, nerve conduction studies, liver fibroscan, respiratory function, respiratory function testing, 24 hour blood pressure monitoring and telehealth services.

The LNP is committed to delivering improved health services in Queensland which includes increased hospital funding with an extra \$8 billion for hospitals taking it to \$29.5 billion over five years.

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