



**Andrew
CRIPPS MP**
Member for Hinchinbrook



for a new Queensland

MEDIA RELEASE

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For immediate release

Newman budget healthy for North Queensland

North Queenslanders are set to share in the \$11.6 billion dollar health budget handed down by the Newman LNP Government.

Hinchinbrook MP, Andrew Cripps, said the State Government had made a number of significant investments to improve health services and facilities in rural and regional Queensland, particularly in North Queensland.

“I welcome the commitments in the budget to upgrade facilities at the Townsville and Cairns Hospitals, particularly investments to improve paediatric and neo-natal care,” said Mr Cripps. “Cairns and Townsville Hospitals are the two major regional hospitals servicing patients from my electorate of Hinchinbrook where complicated procedures and treatments are delivered.

“This funding builds on the significant increase in travel and accommodation allowances available under the Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme (PTSS) for regional Queenslanders who have to travel long distances to seek medical treatment.

“Additionally the return of local area Hospital Boards will mean health care decisions affecting North Queenslanders will be made in North Queensland.

Mr Cripps said projects to receive funding in the Newman Governments health budget this year include:

- \$99 million towards the \$446.3 million Cairns Base Hospital Redevelopment due for completion in 2015
- \$58 million towards the \$334 million Townsville Hospital expansion project due for completion in 2014
- \$14.8 million over three years to establish paediatric intensive care services at Townsville Hospital
- \$4 million towards the \$25 million Townsville Neo-Natal Intensive Care Unit
- \$1.49 million towards the \$4.78 million Health Workforce Australia Clinic Training Program in Cairns

“These commitments demonstrate that the Newman Government is delivering on its promises to lift the standard of health care provided to people in regional Queensland.

“I will continue to strongly advocate as both a local member and in Cabinet to ensure the people of the Hinchinbrook electorate benefit from future increases in health funding.”

[ENDS]

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