MEDIA RELEASE

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$5 million to boost cardiac rehabilitation participation

Member for Greenslopes Joe Kelly has welcomed the Palaszczuk Government’s investment of $5 million this financial year to get more patients into cardiac rehabilitation after a heart attack, reducing their chance of another cardiac event.

The investment takes the form of a funding program developed in partnership with the Heart Foundation with the aim of getting more patients who are discharged from public hospitals after a heart attack participating in cardiac rehabilitation programs.

In Queensland, about 33,000 people a year are admitted to hospital suffering from a heart attack or angina, including people in the Greenslopes electorate, and Mr Kelly said the State Government was committed to reducing these numbers.

“This investment is just one initiative our government is rolling to bolster preventative health care, which will keep more people out of our hospitals, including in Greenslopes,” he said.

Mr Kelly said as part of the investment, the Metro South Hospital and Health Service would be eligible for more than $920,000 based on improving the number of its patients attending cardiac rehabilitation.

“Patients need to access the right support and education so they can make the changes they need to reduce their risk of another heart attack, and the Metro South Hospital and Health Service has a role to play in ensuring they have access to that,” he said.

“As the Member for Greenslopes I encourage my local Hospital and Health Service to capitalise on this initiative by ensuring more heart attack patients end up in cardiac rehabilitation where they should be, giving these patients the best chance possible to keep out of hospital and live a longer, healthier life.”

Minister for Health and Ambulance Services Cameron Dick said a third of all heart attacks were repeat heart attacks that possibly could have been prevented with cardiac rehabilitation after the first event.
“Cardiac rehabilitation has been shown to reduce a heart attack sufferer’s return visits to hospital within the first year by as much as 45 per cent, and death within the first year by as much as 25 per cent,” he said.

“This funding will provide an incentive for our Hospital and Health Services to implement the right systems to boost referrals to the many cardiac rehabilitation services that are currently available and ensure that more patients can and do attend these services.”

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