Centre of excellence for rural and remote medicine - beach to bush health care

We will become a centre of excellence in rural and remote medicine by investing in the skills, training, people and infrastructure needed to deliver the highest quality health care, close to home for the people of Central Queensland.

As part of this strategy we will develop Biloela and Emerald hospitals as the key rural facilities for their regions, to deliver health services in communities closer to home. The network of local hospitals and multi-purpose health services across Central Highlands, Woorabinda, Banana, Mount Morgan and Capricorn Coast will provide important local access to a range of in hospital and out-of-hospital services.

Biloela and Emerald will benefit from Gladstone and Rockhampton hospitals providing access to specialist services and expertise. They will support the multi-purpose health services to deliver care through utilisation of innovation, technology, expert support and an expanded range of services.

To support this vision we will develop several key areas:

- **Great care, close to home**
  We will deliver care closer to home to improve health care outcomes and improve patient experience with the support of the regional specialist hub at Rockhampton. A mobile workforce with specialised training will provide skilled outreach care and we will utilise technology to support Telehealth and other innovation that connects clinicians with patients without the need for travel.

- **Rural and remote clinical schools**
  We will partner with universities to develop rural and remote clinical schools at Emerald and Biloela hospitals to train local medical, nursing, midwifery, allied health and Indigenous health students to support the skills and sustainability of the rural workforce into the future. We will become a leading provider of education and research in rural health care in Australia.

- **Rural resilience**
  We will develop our trauma capacity in rural and remote emergency departments and improve access in times of floods through development of expanded critical care capacity within key emergency departments as well as helipads to ensure that services are resilient during times of natural disasters.

- **Self sufficiency and preventive medicine**
  We recognise the social determinants of health and will support clients to maximise their opportunities for health improvement in every encounter. We will develop programs in partnerships with key stakeholders to improve access to care in disadvantaged communities, improve health literacy and increase the numbers of brief interventions within rural and remote facilities. We will close the gap for our Indigenous clients through increasing leadership opportunities and community control of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health services.

As our rural and regional facilities are upgraded they will be designed to allow the delivery of care closer to home. They will be consumer focused, fit for purpose, technology enabled and prepared for the digital revolution.