

Hunter Postgraduate Medical Institute

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Mr TIMOTHY OWEN (Newcastle) [1.17 p.m.]: I inform the Parliament of the great work being conducted by the team at the Hunter Postgraduate Medical Institute. The institute was developed in 1981 and is an independent, non-government, non-profit, medical educational body, which provides quality, independent continuing professional development to the health profession throughout the Hunter, New England, Northern Tablelands, Western Plains, mid North Coast and Central Coast regions of New South Wales. It is a great regional organisation.

The work of the Hunter Postgraduate Medical Institute and its members is good news for the medical profession and, importantly, our local communities, which benefit from the improved health standards that come from professional and knowledgeable medical practitioners. The team at the institute strive to work in close collaboration with the faculty of health at the University of Newcastle and with other educational bodies to promote the principle of lifetime learning for all medical practitioners so as to progressively improve the standards of medical practice in the region.

A few weeks ago when I toured the institute I was fortunate enough to meet with the leaders at the Hunter Postgraduate Medical Institute, including Dr Hewson, Jean Walsh and Dr Sales. I must say it was a fantastic tour. I was thoroughly impressed by their professionalism and commitment to not only the medical fraternity but also our local community. I was impressed by the eagerness of the institute's members to continue to learn and not rest on their laurels once they have completed their degree. Through its programs the institute encourages the continuance of learning and growth. I believe that in order to continue to be relevant, and indeed successful, we must all be receptive to new ways of thinking, which comes from opening one's mind to new schools of thought. There is a saying that I think most of us in the House would be familiar with: without your health you do not have anything.

I commend the Hunter Postgraduate Medical Institute for the role that it has played in improving the health of our community, by educating and informing its members to ensure that they are at the forefront of medical technologies always. The Hunter Postgraduate Medical Institute is constantly looking at ways to improve its educational delivery and I intend to do what I can, as the local member, to help them operate successfully in my local region. I believe that the team at the institute is focused on building relationships with the health service industry and as such it is a fantastic professional Newcastle institute. I commend its work to this House.