Good morning, and thank you for inviting me here today – it’s a pleasure to be here for the official opening of Horton House.

Before I begin I want to acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which we meet and pay my respects to Elders past, present and future.

I also extend my respects to any Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people here this morning.

I would also like to acknowledge my federal colleague, Paul Fletcher, the Minister for Urban Infrastructure and the Member for Bradford.

Thank you, Lorraine Lovitt, the Chair of Twilight Aged Care and your colleagues for hosting us today.

The Australian Government is committed to delivering an aged care system that meets the nation’s needs not just for today or tomorrow, but for the next 20 years and beyond.

In 2015–16, more than 1.3 million older people received some form of aged care. With more Australians living longer and healthier lives, we can only expect those numbers to increase.

The Australian Government is working hard to create an aged care system that is affordable, sustainable, flexible and consumer responsive. One that produces quality services with plenty of consumer choice and control.

The Government is the most significant contributor to aged care and currently spends more than $17 billion a year on aged care.

And it’s only by working with great aged care organisations like Twilight Aged Care that we really keep the aged care system improving.
Today, we celebrate the opening of Horton House, following a major renovation by Twilight Aged care.

I had the opportunity to tour the facility earlier today and it’s very impressive.

The home incorporates 45 rooms, dedicated activity areas and outdoor spaces while integrating the latest technology and safety features — all focussed on residents’ comfort and care.

I firmly believe that quality aged care services is everyone’s business.

The aged care reforms the Government is putting in place have been designed in consultation with the aged care sector and consumer representatives so that we can build the best aged care system in the world.

In the time I have spent at Horton House today, speaking with the residents, directors, managers and carers, as well as dedicated volunteers, I can see that there is something very special about Horton House and Twilight Aged Care.

As the Minister for Aged Care, I commend Twilight for the work you are doing — as you have done for more than 100 years, I wish you all the best.

Thank you.