



Speech by

## John-Paul Langbroek

MEMBER FOR SURFERS PARADISE

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### MOTION: QUEENSLAND HEALTH

**Mr LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (5.39 pm): It is my pleasure to rise to support the motion moved by the shadow health minister, the member for Caloundra. This is far too important an issue to be trivialising it in the way that the government is. Health is allocated \$9 billion in the budget. That is nearly 25 per cent of the state's budget. When we look at the Auditor-General's reasons for the audit, the Auditor-General points out that the Queensland health system is experiencing significant increases in demand. As the member for Caloundra mentioned, over the next 15 years the number of hospitalisations is predicted to double.

I have been proud to be a member of the Public Accounts Committee, as I have mentioned a number of times. It is not the first time that the Auditor-General has done investigations into planning in health. He has done a number of reports. In 2006 he looked into capital works in the department of health. It was found wanting. There were clear problems with workforce planning in health. That was the report to parliament No. 6 for 2006. He has followed up on those reports, and every time the department is found wanting.

As we have already heard from the member for Caloundra, we get responses from the health minister such as the one in the *Courier-Mail* on Wednesday, 10 June. The health minister, the member for Lytton, is quoted as follows—

'I think that in the past what has happened is that there has been public pressure for something to happen, then an announcement is made and then off we go,' he said.

What an appalling indictment of the planning process. As I have said before in this House, Labor cannot plan, it cannot build and it cannot deliver. We see that exemplified by this report, where the audit opinion expressed by the Auditor-General makes a number of points about weaknesses. These are weaknesses identified since 2005 when Premier Peter Beattie said, 'I think we've turned the corner in health.' Of course we know that we have not turned the corner in health when we look at the appalling statistics in the public hospitals performance results—the number of people who are waiting on elective surgery waiting lists.

**Mr Lucas:** Record operations.

**Mr LANGBROEK:** That is because they have had to outsource them to the private sector.

**Mr Lucas:** Long waits reduced. Emergency waiting times percentages improved.

**Mr LANGBROEK:** And there are still thousands of people waiting longer than they should.

The Auditor-General said that the department should have more advanced service planning systems in place; there is a lack of transparent linkages between state-wide and district service plans; there is a lack of clear prioritisation of needs within district service plans; there is no clear linkage between service plans and the funding allocation process; and resourcing implications were not identified in the majority of plans reviewed. Finally, the implementation of Queensland's state-wide health services plan and district plan is not supported by time frames or performance indicators, and there is no monitoring, evaluation or reporting framework in place. It is absolutely damning.

The important thing is that the government responded, even though there were recommendations made. The recommendations were that the department of health implement an integrated service planning process, provide adequate support to districts, ensure all endorsed service plans are adequately supported, and develop and implement a framework and guidance material for implementing, measuring progress and evaluating the success of strategies within service plans. They are very clear recommendations made by the Auditor-General.

When there was a response by the director-general and the minister, the Auditor-General said, 'That is found wanting as well.' His comment about the response from the minister and the department was, 'However, the initiatives planned by the department and outlined by the director-general do not directly address integration between plans or frameworks in guidance material for implementing, measuring progress and evaluating service plans.' Clearly, the Auditor-General is saying that this is not the way to go.

We know that in Townsville when there was pressure on the former Premier he just went out and announced 100 extra beds. There is a real feed-down problem now in Townsville with providing support services. It does not matter what area of planning in Queensland Health we look at. What did we read in the paper last week about the logistics and planning for swine flu? Thomas Lyons, a GP from Eagleby, said—

There is a conspicuous lack of leadership at the state level here in Queensland ...

**Mr Lucas:** So Dr Lyons said. How many doctors are there in Queensland?

**Mr LANGBROEK:** Well, that is just someone at the coalface. Let us not worry about what people at the coalface say. That is what they are saying about swine flu. That is the problem with this government. I note that the member for Lytton loves the Broncos. What does Bruno Cullen, the Broncos chief executive, say? He said that the department's quarantine advice about swine flu was too inconsistent to be taken seriously. It does not matter whether it is the professionals, the footballers or the people of Queensland: the government cannot plan, it cannot build, it cannot deliver. It is an indictment on this government.