



Speech by

Jarrod Bleijie

MEMBER FOR KAWANA

Hansard Wednesday, 4 August 2010

SUNSHINE COAST UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL

Mr BLEIJIE (Kawana—LNP) (11.40 am): This morning I tabled further parliamentary petitions with respect to the delay of the Sunshine Coast University Hospital. This brings the total number of petitioners to some 30,000—a sign that the Sunshine Coast community is telling the health minister, 'Hospital delay? No way!' This petition represents the anger and neglect that many Sunshine Coast residents feel following the Labor government's decision to delay the 450-bed public hospital. The anger follows the contempt that this government and this Deputy Premier have towards the health system and those people on the Sunshine Coast.

To top it off, yesterday we had the health minister attacking me in this place for actually having a petition tabled in this place. I say: shame on this health minister for such a deliberate attack on the democratic right of each and every Queenslander to petition this parliament. With that performance yesterday, is it any wonder that the real Julia Gillard has asked the real Premier and the real Deputy Premier and Minister for Health to go into hiding for the next three weeks?

The neglect that this government has shown in delaying these vital additional beds, nurses and doctors is a slap in the face for all Sunshine Coast residents—

Mr Ryan interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: And for the member for Morayfield. It is a direct slap in the face of 73-year-old Mr Brian Ginn, who led the protest march in his wheelchair, with 2,000 people behind him, fighting for our public hospital. Put quite simply, we need more beds, we need more doctors and nurses and we need them now, not in 2016.

I say to the Minister for Health, who has a reputation of being all huff and puff: Minister, it is a Labor government that delayed the hospital, it is a Labor government that has overseen the worst waiting times in emergency departments, it is a Labor government that thinks fit to put patients in storage cupboards and classify chairs as beds and it is a Labor government and a health minister who cannot pay our great nurses and doctors. For that the minister should be ashamed.

The Premier talks about accountability and responsibility. If this health minister were in any other parliament in Australia he would be sacked, and he should be sacked.

(Time expired)