



Speech by

John-Paul Langbroek

MEMBER FOR SURFERS PARADISE

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QUEENSLAND HEALTH, PAYROLL SYSTEM

Mr LANGBROEK (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (11.32 am): How is it possible to commission a new payroll system that has so far cost Queensland taxpayers \$65 million, only now to find out it is going to take another \$210 million to fix? It is like something out of a Monty Python skit—\$210 million and where is the money coming from? Nobody wants to say.

Yesterday, the health minister had this to say in his press conference—

It will—it will not come out of—it will not come out of—it will be financed from the—from the Queensland government budget.

After that press conference, no wonder the Minister for Health and the Minister for Public Works and Information and Communication Technology are planning their exit from this House. Of course, we tabled leaked documents that demonstrate exactly where some of this money is coming from and the leaked documents reveal that hospitals are being told to cut back on overtime for doctors and nurses, pathology for the sick and even beds for the dying. The dying, the sick and our health professionals are suffering at the hands of an incompetent, callous and heartless long-term Labor government. Palliative care beds—beds for the dying, beds where patients spend their final days of life: cut.

The minister claims that Health budgets have increased, yet leaked documents from his own department demonstrate massive cuts. How many patients will be denied pathology tests? Of course, there is the scandalous plan to not fill vacancies. As doctors and nurses leave—some because of the frustration of not being paid properly—they will not be replaced. In other words, employ fewer doctors and nurses and more million-dollar computer consultants. That is the toxic Labor plan. No wonder morale is so low at Queensland Health. That is not efficient; that is a disgrace.

Labor's incompetent and inept financial management is impacting directly on patients and their health. Of course, any portion of the \$210 million cost that is not funded by cuts to Queensland Health will be added to Labor's debt. That is just what Queensland needs: even more toxic Labor debt!

(Time expired)