




Speech By  
**Annastacia Palaszczuk**

**MEMBER FOR INALA**

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**MOTION: QUEENSLAND HEALTH, PAYROLL SYSTEM**

 **Ms PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Leader of the Opposition) (11.26 am): I will be supporting the amendment moved by the shadow health minister and member for Bundamba, which calls on the Newman government to immediately address the recommendations of the \$5 million Chesterman inquiry and notes the Newman government's massive cuts to hospitals and health services.

Yesterday in this House we were addressing some of the issues in relation to the inquiry, and once again the health minister and the Deputy Premier wanted to see diaries and lobbyists' registers. At that stage I mentioned to them that Richard Chesterman had all of the powers of a royal commission to look at any document relevant to the \$5 million inquiry—which was paid for by taxpayers—that this government had undertaken. At the time I did not have the Commissions of Inquiry Act on me, but today for the benefit of the cabinet ministers opposite I am more than happy to table the Commissions of Inquiry Act which sets out the powers of a royal commission. Let me read from it so that the health minister, Treasurer and all of the cabinet ministers—

**An honourable member:** And the Attorney-General!

**Ms PALASZCZUK:**—and the Attorney-General are very clear. The act states—

5. Power to summon witnesses and require production of books

...

(b) require any person to produce to the commission at a specified time and place such books, documents, writings and records or property or things of whatever description in the person's custody or control.

I table the Commissions of Inquiry Act so that all of the cabinet ministers can be very clear that Mr Chesterman had all of the powers of a royal commission to seek any relevant document that was needed for his inquiry.

*Tabled paper:* Commissions of Inquiry Act 1950, current as at 1 July 2013 [\[3179\]](#).

At lunchtime today there are going to be nurses marching on Parliament House who are concerned about what this government is doing. They are concerned about the massive cuts to hospitals and services—

**Government member:** If they never marched, then they would have been paid!

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** That is not true! That is not true and you are misleading!

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Dr Robinson): Order!

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** They are going to present a petition stating that our hospitals are not for sale, and they are also going to be handing out something entitled *Hands off our Sunshine Coast University Hospital*. The Nurses Union and the people of Queensland are concerned about these

savage cuts. This government wants to live in the past and continue to blame the former Labor government. Well, it is about time this health minister stood up—

**Mr Springborg** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Dr Robinson): Order! The Minister for Health will cease interjecting.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** It is about time that this health minister stood up and took responsibility for his actions, his cuts and his closures.

When I move around the hospitals I have people say to me that, because of the cuts and closures, they are now having to do the jobs of two or three people. It is having a huge impact here in South-East Queensland, but it is having a much bigger impact in regional Queensland. When I travel across regional Queensland I find that people are disgusted that this government is sacking workers—sacking over 4½ thousand nurses and allied health professionals—and looking at privatising services. This is a government that cannot be trusted. This health minister and this Premier cannot be trusted.

I will move on to the recommendations of the inquiry and the substantive part of the shadow health minister's amendment. This week the government has not addressed the issue of how they will implement the recommendations of the Health payroll inquiry. They have not said how much money they will allocate to make sure the recommendations will be implemented. I am concerned that there are a number of recommendations of the Health payroll inquiry, commissioned by the government, to which they have not even bothered to respond. If they are serious and fair dinkum, they should be addressing these recommendations. The matter should have gone to cabinet and they should have said very clearly in this parliament this week how much money they are going to allocate to ensure every recommendation made in the Queensland Health Payroll System Commission of Inquiry report will be implemented on their watch. They have not said so. They are still living in the past. There are people out there who are suffering. Queenslanders will not forget. The health minister will be held responsible.

*(Time expired)*