




Speech By
Hon. Cameron Dick

MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE

Record of Proceedings, 20 May 2015

PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Elective Surgery Wait-Time Guarantee

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (2.52 pm): Waiting lists are about more than just surgery. They are about more than just surgery, and the vote last night was the vote of what happens in a hung parliament, where no party has a majority.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DICK: Let us be clear about its impact. The member for Southern Downs, the opposition leader, is a 26-year veteran of this House and he knows that that vote last night is not binding. It is an opinion of this House—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DICK: It is an opinion of this House.

Mr SPEAKER: Members, the Leader of the Opposition was listened to in silence. I would ask you to listen to the minister in silence.

Mr DICK: But what we will do is we will talk to the crossbenchers about their concerns because what we know about the so-called wait-time guarantee—the wait-time gimmick—is that it ignored the 100,000 people who were waiting for an outpatient appointment. It was a system that skewed resources to surgery and ignored the 100,000 people waiting—left in the waiting room by the Leader of the Opposition. I will develop and deliver a health system for the many, not the few. Those members opposite want to worry about 290 people; I want to worry about the 200,000 waiting for outpatient appointments and ensure—

Mr McArdle interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, one moment. Member for Caloundra, the minister has the call.

Mr DICK: I want to ensure that we capture the entire patient journey. In the Cairns health and hospital service, as at 1 April 9,000 people were waiting beyond the clinically recommended time for treatment. At Caloundra Hospital, 248.

Mr Rickuss interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: One moment, Minister. Member for Lockyer, the minister has the call.

Mr DICK: Thank you, Mr Speaker. At Lady Cilento 4,248 children have been waiting beyond the clinically recommended time. At Mount Isa Base Hospital the number is 297 and at Logan Hospital 10,873 patients have been waiting beyond the clinically recommended time. The members opposite may wish to abandon those people—I will not. I will not abandon those people who need to be treated within the clinically recommended time.

So we are cognisant of the resolution of the House yesterday and we will work with hospital and health services, we will work with leaders and we will work with clinicians like I did at our round table on 29 April where we sat down with 30 leaders to work out appropriate targets for everyone needing treatment in public hospitals. That work will go on, and that is the assurance I give this House. We will develop appropriate targets for everyone going into public health, but what we will not do, when the Leader of the Opposition talks about plans, is we will not cut staff from Health. We will not cut the 4,820 people the opposition leader cut when he was the health minister. We will not cut the 1,800 midwives and nurses. We will deliver 400 new nurses and 4,000 new nursing graduate places. We will rebuild health and make it a better place for Queenslanders.