




Speech By
Hon. Cameron Dick
MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE

Record of Proceedings, 2 June 2015

PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Elective Surgery, Wait-Time Guarantee

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (10.18 am): In this chamber on 19 May, in a debate concerning elective surgery management in Queensland, the Leader of the Opposition, the member for Southern Downs, made a number of claims. First, he stated that at the change of government the number of people who were waiting for their surgery longer than clinically recommended was 'reduced to 73'. That statement was incorrect. Departmental records show that on 1 February 2015 the number of people ready for surgery waiting beyond the clinically recommended time was 324.

Second, in the same debate the member for the Southern Downs stated that the program 'was a \$500 million program and it was properly costed; the money was there'. As the member for Southern Downs would know, as the former treasurer and member for Clayfield would know and as the member for Caloundra, a former cabinet minister, would know, expenditure of half a billion dollars would require cabinet or Cabinet Budget Review Committee approval. The *Queensland Cabinet Handbook* states—

Ministers should ensure there is no announcement of policy initiatives or expenditure commitments which have not been given Cabinet authority or, where appropriate, Governor in Council approval.

The member for Southern Downs said 'the money was there'. He said, 'This program was a \$500 million program and it was properly costed; the money was there.'

The Department of Health has advised my office that there is no record of a \$500 million allocation for this program. The member for Southern Downs has been in this place for a quarter of a century now. He should understand the discipline of government and the rules of this parliament.

Today I call on the Leader of the Opposition to release all cabinet, Cabinet Budget Review Committee and any other cabinet committee documents that authorised the establishment of the former LNP government's wait-time program and the allocation of the \$500 million to fund that program as stated by him in this House on 19 May 2015. I have written to him today to formally make this request. I table a copy of my letter to the Leader of the Opposition.

Tabled paper: Letter, undated, from the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services, Hon. Cameron Dick, to the Leader of the Opposition, Mr Lawrence Springborg MP, requesting the release of all cabinet, CBRC and other cabinet committee documents that authorised the establishment of the former LNP government's wait-time program and the allocation of \$500 million to fund the program [\[493\]](#).

This is a simple request for the Leader of the Opposition to comply with and I look forward to the prompt disclosure of the documents.