




Speech By
Hon. Cameron Dick

MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Queensland Health, ICT Systems

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (10.42 am): Mr Speaker, thank you for the opportunity to address a series of deliberate misrepresentations put to this House by the Leader of the Opposition today. There are so many things to challenge in what the Leader of the Opposition said that it will take me half a day to address all of the falsehoods and misrepresentations he put to the House. But if you were the Leader of the Opposition, why wouldn't you want to misrepresent the past? When I came into the minister's office, I saw this big revolving front door and I asked, 'What is that for?' I was told, 'He's sacking people so quickly he's got to have a revolving door to get them in and out of the office quickly.' More than 4,000 staff were sacked from Queensland Health. Right at the front line, there were 1,800 nurses and midwives sacked—he was thrashing and trashing nursing in this state.

What did I find with the ICT systems when I came in? The Leader of the Opposition was banging on about how great he was—that he was the fixer, that he fixed it all with no problems at all—but what did I find when I came to office? In my incoming minister's brief, there were 16 information and computer technology systems identified as having a risk profile of high or extreme. Why didn't the Leader of the Opposition tell us about HCBIS, the patient information system which is on the verge of collapse? Why didn't he tell us about FAMMIS, the finance, assets and materials information system? Why didn't he tell us about AUSLAB, the pathology system which is about to collapse? What did he do?

There were millions of dollars spent on a royal commission, but he could not even implement the first recommendation—a statewide eHealth Investment Strategy. We have done that in seven months. We have a 20-year plan, a 20-year vision. Those opposite say that we do not have a plan, but I have done it in seven months when he sat on his hands for three years and did nothing.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Members, when the Leader of the Opposition spoke there was not this level of agitation. I urge members to allow the minister to continue in silence.

Mr DICK: They have not listened to him for 26 years; why are they going to start listening now? The Leader of the Opposition spoke about ambulance ramping. No wonder it is back—he removed the directive late last year requiring hospitals to treat patients when they came in. Labor has put that back in. We have put in MEDAI, the Metropolitan Emergency Department Access Initiative. Labor has to fix these chronic problems left behind by the Leader of the Opposition. He did not fix ICT. He did not fix ramping. What he did was he fixed the jobs of people; he fixed the jobs of contractors. We may be able to save \$512,000 a fortnight. He was too busy paying contractors and not paying staff because he sacked them.

What about waiting lists? What have we been able to do in seven months? More than 100,000 people were waiting longer than clinically recommended, so what have we been able to do in seven months? That figure has gone down from 100,000 to 82,000, so 18,000 Queenslanders have been able to get into a hospital, get treatment and get an appointment with a specialist. They were left in the waiting room by the Leader of the Opposition who did not care about them. This Labor government cares about health. This Labor government cares about waiting lists. I have got the clean-up job of a lifetime to do which was left behind by the Leader of the Opposition—ICT, waiting lists, staffing. I will do the job.