




Speech By
Hon. Cameron Dick

MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE

Record of Proceedings, 14 October 2015

PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Elective Surgery, Waiting Times

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (2.50 pm): 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. Firstly, 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 is simply incorrect. Departmental records show that on 1 February 2015 the number of people ready for surgery waiting beyond the clinically recommended time was 324. In the same debate the opposition leader stated that his wait time gimmick 'was a \$500 million program and it was properly costed; the money was there'. It has now been 105 days since I asked the member for Southern Downs to provide some skerrick of evidence to back up his claim.

In that 105 days the world has changed a lot. Queensland won the State of Origin—again. Cuba and the United States have resumed diplomatic relations. Malcolm Turnbull is the new Prime Minister. The Cowboys won the NRL grand final. NASA found water on Mars.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DICK: Even they are laughing at it. I am pleased to report that Pistol and Boo were saved from the threat of euthanasia, a threat made by—to quote their owner, Johnny Depp—'some sweaty big gutted man from Australia'. The members opposite seem to have forgotten who the sweaty big gutted man from Australia might be—one of their former senators. The member for Southern Downs is still living in a world where none of this has happened. Despite repeated requests, the member for Southern Downs simply will not release the cabinet documents to demonstrate his claim that there was \$500 million—that the money was there and that the program was properly costed. Where are the documents? It is not a difficult proposition. He refuses to stand in this place even to repeat the claim.

Now we have heard a lot from the 'fixer' opposite, the member for Southern Downs. We have heard a lot this week about integrity, haven't we, Mr Speaker? We have heard from him that actions speak louder than words. We have heard that all week from the Leader of the Opposition. Well, it has been 105 days—105 days—and we have had neither actions nor words from the Leader of the Opposition, and it is about time we had both.