




Speech By
Hon. Cameron Dick

MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE

Record of Proceedings, 29 October 2015

PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Lady Cilento Children's Hospital

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (10.26 am): There has been significant debate in this place about the Lady Cilento Children's Hospital. The opposition has sought to airbrush themselves out of their time in government. They accept no responsibility for their actions and their decisions. People in public life need to be accountable.

The rhetoric of the member for Moggill on Monday night, now permanently on the Hansard record, was nothing short of shameful. The member for Moggill should show more compassion when addressing issues as tragic as the death of young people. His comments bring shame on himself and his party. But, as is often the case with the LNP, the reality is quite different to the rhetoric. The member for Moggill and the member for Southern Downs have some explaining to do.

On 1 November 2013, a full year before the hospital was commissioned and opened, the member for Moggill, who was then the president of the AMA Queensland, wrote to the then premier, Campbell Newman, and said—

We advise that we have taken up the opportunity to meet with the Health Minister, the Hon. Lawrence Springborg MP, with that meeting set down for 19 November 2013. Furthermore, we will arrange to meet with Dr Peter Steer to reiterate the critical importance of well planned, appropriately funded and broadly communicated transition arrangements for both doctors and the public.

I table a copy of that letter.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 1 November 2013, from the President of the Australian Medical Association Queensland, Dr Christian Rowan, to the Premier of Queensland, Hon. Campbell Newman MP, relating to meeting with the Minister for Health, Hon. Lawrence Springborg, regarding transition arrangements for the Queensland Children's Hospital [1516].

I also table an extract from the published November 2013 diary of the member for Southern Downs.

Tabled paper: Extract from ministerial diary—Minister for Health, 1 November 2013-30 November 2013 [1517].

That diary extract includes an entry on 19 November 2013 of a meeting on the 'Queensland Children's Hospital transition' with 'Dr Christian Rowan, Australian Medical Association of Queensland' and 'various past presidents of the AMA Queensland'. What is abundantly clear from these documents is that the Leader of the Opposition was put on notice a full year before the commissioning and opening that transition arrangements were at risk, a full year before the rushed movement of patients and staff would expose Queensland children to higher than necessary risk. The member for Southern Downs and the member for Moggill cannot rewrite history. It is there in black and white. I say to the opposition leader and the member for Moggill: take some responsibility; be accountable for your actions.

This parliament is a wonderful institution. It grants the Leader of the Opposition and the member for Moggill a chance right now to stand up in this place before their parliamentary colleagues and before the Queensland community to explain exactly what it is they did together to ensure that well-planned,

appropriately funded and broadly communicated transition arrangements for both doctors and the public were put in place. Now is the time for the Leader of the Opposition. He will be on his feet in a second explaining to Queensland what happened.