




Speech By
Hon. Cameron Dick

MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE

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PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Health, Member for Clayfield

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (2.53 pm): There are some partnerships that are so closely linked in the public mind that it is almost impossible to think of one without thinking of the other: Fred Flintstone and Barney Rubble; Vladimir Putin and Donald Trump; and, closer to home, the very close personal working relationship between the member for Callide and the member for Noosa as we saw on display yesterday; and of course that old Queensland team of 'Can-do' and 'Will cut'.

It pains me, and I am very sad indeed, to report that the greatest bromance in the history of our state—the relationship between Campbell Newman and the member for Clayfield—is at an end. It is over. I know that the Queensland community is shattered by that thought, and we saw that in full flight last week when Campbell Newman furiously agreed with Senator George Brandis that the Leader of the Opposition and his LNP opposition were in fact very, very mediocre.

Nowhere has the Leader of the Opposition's performance been more mediocre than in health. He was in Cairns last week crying his crocodile tears, powering through the tissues, putting the bandaid over the bleeding heart, spruiking, of all things, a petition to save the Cairns Hospital—from the man who cut 61 full-time equivalent nursing positions from the Far North. The member for Clayfield campaigning for hospitals is like Peter Dutton campaigning for the Australia-Lebanon friendship society. It simply lacks any shred of credibility. He has had so many contradictory positions on health that he cannot move in any direction without tripping over his own hypocrisy.

Where was he when the federal government ripped \$10 billion out of the state healthcare system? Where was he then? Nowhere! Where was he when the cuts came through for mental health from the Turnbull government, for aged care, for dental services? Nowhere to be seen, and of course this is the man who cut over 4,000 jobs from the health system—1,800 nurses and midwives and 61 full-time equivalents from the Far North. Where was the apology for the closure of the Barrett centre? I know some of the members up the back have a shred of decency about them, but where is the apology to the families affected by that? The only government in history to cut mental health funding in Queensland and where is the apology from the Leader of the Opposition?

Government members: Shame!

Mr DICK: I take the interjection from government members that it is a shame. There is only one job that the Leader of the Opposition is interested in saving, and that is his own.