




Speech By
Hon. Cameron Dick

MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE

Record of Proceedings, 30 November 2016

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Sunshine Coast University Hospital, Medical School

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (7.40 pm): Yesterday the member for Surfers Paradise rose in the House and delivered a statement during which he claimed I had misled the House in relation to the establishment of a medical school at the Sunshine Coast University Hospital. Through that statement the member for Surfers Paradise showed yet again that he has no grasp of his shadow portfolio responsibilities. He showed yet again that he chooses to be an apologist for the federal government rather than to stand up and fight for Queenslanders. The member for Surfers Paradise should follow the example of his federal LNP colleague Ted O'Brien MP, the member for Fairfax. Unlike the member for Surfers Paradise, Ted O'Brien is prepared to stand up and fight for a medical school at the Sunshine Coast University Hospital—something, sadly, that no member of the state LNP has done. Indeed, to quote the member for Fairfax—

The Federal Government is the only one that can reallocate places and what you're not hearing from the likes of Andrew Wallace and me is that everything's hunky-dory, we'll be right. Like hell. We don't have this and we need to keep fighting for it.

Mr O'Brien gets it. He knows that the allocation of training places for the medical school is solely a Commonwealth responsibility. In refusing to allocate an additional 15 places for the medical school, Minister Birmingham claimed that I had failed to give undertakings guaranteeing specialist training positions for the extra medical graduates. Minister Birmingham concludes his letter by stating that a medical school on the Sunshine Coast could commence with 35 places. In other words, there was no need for an additional 15 places.

Remarkably, the member for Surfers Paradise somehow believes that Minister Birmingham's refusal is, in fact, an approval. The member for Surfers Paradise displays not only his own ignorance but also that of Minister Birmingham. Unlike the member for Surfers Paradise, I will table another relevant letter between the federal government and me on the issue. On 8 March 2016, I wrote to Minister Birmingham and stated—

... your request for assurance that all students at the new medical school be afforded opportunities for specialist training places should be readily satisfied. This of course, would be ultimately determined by the respective learned Colleges.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 8 March 2016, from the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services, Hon. Cameron Dick, to the federal Minister for Education and Training, Hon. Simon Birmingham, regarding Commonwealth supported places for Griffith University to establish a medical school on the Sunshine Coast University Hospital campus [\[2194\]](#).

If anybody has misled the House, it is the member for Surfers Paradise. The fact is, as he should know well as the shadow minister for health, that specialist training colleges accredit our hospitals and determine the number of places that a hospital can allocate. In other words, if the colleges accredit 10 specialist training places at a hospital, then the hospital allocates those 10 places.

I can advise the House that work undertaken by the Department of Health on medical practitioner workforce planning shows that there are always vacancies in certain specialties that need to be filled and Queensland Health cannot fill all of those places. That is why, on 8 March this year, I gave the assurance to the federal Minister for Education that I was confident that we could guarantee those specialist training positions—subject, of course, to the ultimate determination of specialist colleges. In future, the member for Surfers Paradise should do a little more work for himself rather than rely on the furphy being peddled by Minister Birmingham.