




Speech By
Jarrold Bleijie

MEMBER FOR KAWANA

Record of Proceedings, 30 November 2016

ADJOURNMENT

Sunshine Coast University Hospital

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (2.40 am): I refer to the health minister's comments in parliament on 29 November, his statements in the *Sunshine Coast Daily* on 11 November 2016 and continued commentary regarding 15 training places at the Sunshine Coast University Hospital. I also acknowledge statements made yesterday by the shadow minister for health when he rose in this House to correct the record of the selective and misleading comments made by the health minister on this subject. From the documents tabled in the House, it is clear that the federal government—

Mr DICK: I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence at those comments and ask him to withdraw.

Mr BLEIJIE: I withdraw. From the documents tabled in the House yesterday, it is clear that the federal government has been waiting on explicit commitments from the state government which are yet to be provided by the Minister for Health. Clearly, the Minister for Health is more interested in grandstanding on this subject than achieving a resolution. I find the minister's remarks in the House yesterday astounding—

Mr DICK: I rise to a point of order. I find the words personally offensive and I ask him to withdraw.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Kawana, will you withdraw?

Mr BLEIJIE: I withdraw and I will keep withdrawing. I find astounding the minister's remarks in the House yesterday when he suggested that I had not been vocal in support of the Sunshine Coast University Hospital, considering that, with the community, I led a 2,000-strong protest against the Labor delay in 2009. I might remind the minister that if it were not for the LNP there would not be a hospital. It was the Labor government that delayed this project for years and it was the LNP that brought forward the construction, saving the taxpayer \$200 million. I remember the protest marches. I was there front and centre, protesting with the community against the Labor delays. I know that the health minister has taken a vacation of a few years in the middle of the past seven years, but I have been there with the community from day dot.

After some 12 months at the helm, after being handed a \$2 billion project on budget and on time from the LNP, the health minister announced another delay to the opening date, of six months, but he did not blame himself. Again, he blamed everyone else. This hospital should have been open by now. It was due to open in November 2016. Why is it only now that the minister has worked out that there is a problem with additional training places? Has he not seen the documentation with a university hospital? Had he not acknowledged that you need university places to have a university hospital? The health minister was due to be cutting the ribbon for this hospital this month, yet he has only now realised that he does not have medical places for the university hospital. Of course, it is everybody else's fault. It is always someone else's fault. Whether it be SPER overpayments, debts or whatever, it is always someone else's fault, not the fault of the member for Woodridge.

There is doubt that, once again, the minister is using the Sunshine Coast University Hospital as a political football—just as he did with his \$1 billion black hole nonsense, just as he did when he was forced into announcing a five-month delay because of his own incompetence. As usual, the minister has been caught out not providing the full story in order to mask his failures. Medical students are the innocent parties in all of this—

Mr DICK: I rise to a point of order. Those words, again, are personally offensive and I ask the member to withdraw.

Mr BLEIJIE: I withdraw. Medical students are the innocent parties in this political blame game by the Minister for Health and they are missing out on important programs that will ultimately benefit Queensland patients in the long run. I say to both the state and federal governments: stop the grandstanding, stop the politicking and get on and deliver these additional 15 training places. I know that my federal colleagues are working hard. Where has the minister been? He could have picked up the phone over the past 18 months. I have been the member. He asks me why I have not fixed the issue. It is hard to fix an issue when you do not know about it. Apparently, the health minister has known about this issue for 18 months but has not had the courtesy to call me and ask, 'Jarrod, what are you going to do about it?' He should have picked up the phone—

Mr Dick interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: Now he laughs. He should have fixed it, because he knew that it was his problem.