




Speech By  
**Hon. Cameron Dick**

**MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE**

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Record of Proceedings, 10 May 2017

**MOTION: PALASZCZUK LABOR GOVERNMENT, PERFORMANCE**

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (6.26 pm): Why don't I start with a report to the parliament on the waiting list for the waiting list? There were 104,000 people waiting longer than clinically recommended when we came to government—left behind by the LNP. What is it now? It is 52,000—cut by 50 per cent in two years. That is the first report I will give to the parliament.

What about the mental health system? I will tell you this much about the member for Surfers Paradise: he has more front than David Jones. They produced a bill in government that they introduced into the parliament which substantively became the Mental Health Bill that we moved through the parliament. They then introduced it as a private member's bill. We introduced it to the parliament. Hold the front page—each and every one of them, including the member for Surfers Paradise, voted for that legislation, reforming the law in Queensland. Each and every one of those members opposite voted for it. I will not accept this hypocrisy from the member for Surfers Paradise that the mental health system is broken when they supported the legislation that is the law in Queensland.

The member for Surfers Paradise might smirk about the Mental Health Review Tribunal. What about the member that he reappointed in 2014—the member that he reappointed who was not qualified and was involved in 2,200 decisions that were wrong and that were not lawful? We had to amend the law. They would not even support the amendment to change the law to rectify the problems in Queensland.

What about mental health reports? Let us talk about mental health reports. Let us talk about not a secret report but a report that was tabled in this parliament—the Expert Clinical Reference Group's report into the Barrett Adolescent Centre which recommended that the Barrett centre should not be closed without replacement. The then minister for health did not even read the report. That was what was concluded by the royal commission from the evidence. He did not read it when it was tabled in front of him in the parliament. He did not read it after he met the young patients of the Barrett centre who were distressed about its impending closure, who begged him to keep it open. That government ignored the report. They, including the man who purports to be the shadow health minister, ignored the report and they closed the centre without replacement, with catastrophic consequences.

What about LNP health service investigations? The LNP commissioned their own health service investigations into some issues. They commissioned eight reports. Five were never released. They never saw the light of day. Perhaps there were good reasons for that. Perhaps that was because of legal advice—legal advice that people like the Attorney-General, the Minister for Communities and I take seriously, because we are a government that believes in the rule of law and believes in acting on advice from the Director of Public Prosecutions as well as the Crown Solicitor. I will not—

**Mr McEachan** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Pause the clock. Minister, I apologise for interrupting; you are on a roll. Member for Redlands, you are making numerous interjections. I find that they are designed to simply disrupt the minister. If you persist, you will join the list. I call the minister.

**Mr DICK:** I will not accept the hypocrisy from the member for Surfers Paradise about answers to questions on notice. He answered questions by referring members of the then opposition to annual reports. In fact, he did not even answer some questions. He said, 'Put in a right to information request.' That was his response to questions on notice.

The LNP complaining about transparency is like Vladimir Putin complaining about cybercrime. It is complete hypocrisy. This is from the team that redacted the entire Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee. They sacked them all in the middle of the night. They redacted the head of the Ethics Committee that they themselves appointed. That is their form. Now they bring a motion in here about cover-ups.

This Palaszczuk Labor government stands in the same tradition as all Labor governments. It was Labor governments that introduced freedom of information laws to this state. It was Labor governments that introduced right to information laws in this state. It is this Labor government that reduced the threshold for disclosures—which was \$12,500 so they could protect their mates—to \$1,000 and we did it against LNP opposition. We have introduced the additional reform of real-time disclosure.

This government understands and respects the separation of powers. We will always give due weight and proper regard to the advice of the Director of Public Prosecutions and the Crown Solicitor. We will always do that, and any qualified lawyer, including the member for Clayfield and the member for Mansfield, should do exactly the same.

Our response is in deep contrast to the member for Mansfield. Remember that May interview last year, now known universally as the 'train wreck', where he spent 30 minutes trying to avoid the doctrine of the separation of powers? That is what would happen if he were the Attorney-General. This government being lectured to by the LNP is like being lectured on transparency by—

*(Time expired)*