




Speech By
Hon. Cameron Dick

MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE

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MOTION

Emergency Services Personnel

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (6.29 pm): I rise to speak in favour of the amendment this evening. The Palaszczuk Labor government takes its responsibility for the protection of our front-line workers very seriously. As the Minister for Ambulance Services, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to our ambulance officers for their commitment and their courage in rendering assistance in situations that often put their own safety at risk.

Unfortunately, there are times their extended hand of compassion is met with the closed fist of aggression. There are times when our ambulance officers are threatened with harm by those they are trying to help. Still they go out, day and night, to the scene of the accident, to the street of the brawl, to the home of the violence, to the site of the overdose—always to those in need, often into the fray, frequently into harm's way.

Our government's message to our front-line emergency staff is that we stand with you. That is why the Palaszczuk Labor government invested \$1.35 million into a public education campaign to raise awareness of the issue of violence aimed towards our paramedics and has accepted all 15 recommendations of the Paramedic Safety Taskforce—a task force our government established. Unlike those opposite who did absolutely nothing for three years and saw this problem grow in our community and in our hospitals, our government takes the safety of front-line workers seriously.

That is why we accepted all 15 recommendations of the task force, which the member for Barron River has already articulated. What a terrific contribution tonight by the member for Barron River. The LNP government sought to blacken the name of the member for Barron River. They sought to denigrate his work as a paramedic, but he was up to the task and beat them and made his way into this parliament. I commend him for his service as a paramedic and for his service to the people of Barron River.

Compare the work of our government to the ideas promoted by the LNP which thinks the answer to every difficult and complex social issue is mandatory sentencing. The member for Everton included in his motion the extraordinary proposition that the Palaszczuk government should adopt the policies of the LNP—policies that decimated front-line services; policies that saw 14,000 public sector workers sacked, including 4,400 health workers; policies that were a complete betrayal of the people of Queensland; and policies that were utterly rejected by the people of our state at the last election.

Having witnessed the verdict of the Queensland people on the policy agenda of the LNP at the last election, taking advice on policy from the LNP is like taking advice on loyalty from Tony Abbott. The Newman government, elected with the largest majority in Queensland history, was turfed out after one term—the greatest political flop since Joh for PM. What is the sage wisdom we get from the member for Everton? It is that we should adopt their policies. My advice to the member for Everton is to stick to the leadership plotting and leave policy to the grown-ups.

Actions speak louder than words. Every emergency service worker in this state knows the difference between the Palaszcuk government and the LNP—we back them and they sack them. I commend the amended motion to the House.