




Speech By
Craig Crawford

MEMBER FOR BARRON RIVER

Record of Proceedings, 12 October 2017

PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Liberal National Party

 **Mr CRAWFORD** (Barron River—ALP) (2.35 pm): I rise to talk about public servants—the hardworking public servants who manage our health care, our public safety, our regulations and our laws. They are our firefighters, doctors and police, but they are also the thousands of staff behind the front lines who process payroll, administration, maintenance and construction. They are hardworking public servants who once again face the precarious possibility of being sacked or sent to the redundancy scrap heap under the same pen of the member for Clayfield, who had three years of merrymaking and mayhem whilst arguably the cruellest cabinet that this state has ever seen took aim again and again.

When I was a public servant working as a paramedic I can remember vividly attending a particular scene where a person was having chest pain. It was a government department and the pain was not cardiac and it was not a heart attack; it was a panic attack—a panic attack because their department was awaiting news that very day as to who was losing their job, whose contract was not being renewed and who had to go home and tell their family that their income had stopped. The mood in that government office was palpable because it was not just the lady I was treating who was stressing; it was the whole department.

I have attended thousands of cases over 15 years and I have seen injury and violence that defies imagination, but this case sticks in my mind. The reason it does is that it was avoidable; it did not need to happen. The member for Clayfield as treasurer did not need to do it. He did not have to subject tens of thousands of government employees to the stress and heartache of not knowing whether that day would be the day they would find out the news.

In the Cairns and hinterland health service alone the LNP went after 95 staff and sent them to the scrap heap; 12 doctors, gone; 24 health practitioners, gone; 58 nurses, gone. That is just one department of government in one location of Queensland. In contrast, our government, the Palaszczuk government, not only restored these numbers but we have grown them: 544 new health staff in the Cairns and hinterland health service alone: 118 new doctors, hired; 62 new health practitioners, hired; 365 nurses, hired. Queenslanders spoke in 2015 when they threw the LNP out—and rightly so. Queenslanders remember what they did. They remember what the LNP stands for. On this side of the House we respect our front-line staff, our Public Service. Those on that side just want to cut it, they want to sell it and they want to sack them.