




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR SURFERS PARADISE

Record of Proceedings, 10 May 2017

MOTION: PALASZCZUK LABOR GOVERNMENT, PERFORMANCE

 **Mr LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (6.21 pm): It is my pleasure to rise to speak to this motion moved by the shadow Attorney-General. When Labor was first elected they promised a government of ‘integrity and accountability’. We heard it again today from the Deputy Premier on the electoral disclosure bill that we were debating this afternoon. Labor’s term in government in the 55th Parliament has been defined by cover-ups and blame shifting. As we have heard, there has been a culture of failures and furbies festering not just in child protection, as mentioned by the member for Mudgeeraba, but also in our all-important health system, as well as in juvenile justice, as the shadow Attorney-General, the member for Mansfield, mentioned in his contribution.

It is obvious that on this side of the House we are ‘health friends’ and on that side of the House they are ‘health frauds’. We only have to look at the health minister’s track record. It is clear that there is no-one more seasoned than the health minister when it comes to cover-ups and blame shifting. In fact, just this afternoon the health minister published a media release which can only be described as crocodile tears. Once again, he claims that the federal budget has cut \$10 billion—just like Austin Powers; \$10 billion—from Queensland Health, but this was an unfunded promise by federal Labor, just as the education promises were when Bill Shorten was out there doing his 27 special deals and talking about money into the future that was unfunded. Maybe the health minister would like to take that up with Bill Shorten himself, the opposition leader, who went to the last election not necessarily agreeing to put all of that money into health and education because it was unfunded. Labor must take Queenslanders for fools.

We have a minister who is not even prepared to answer questions in this House. I table a number of answers to questions on notice about our health system which, according to the minister, do not deserve proper answer.

Tabled paper: Answers to questions on notice No. 60 of 2017 and No. 175 of 2017 [[686](#)].

I want to refer to them. I asked on 28 February 2017 about issues in 2016-17 to date. The answer I received was that ‘information pertinent to the Member’s question is contained in the annual reports of the Director of Mental Health’. That is not appropriate.

Mr Dick: They’re on the public record.

Mr LANGBROEK: The annual report does not come out until October. I take that interjection. Another question I asked was: how many ambulance officers and paramedics were employed at each ambulance station around Queensland as at 1 February 2017? I was told that I will get that in the annual report and state budget papers. That just shows the lack of respect for this parliament and the people of Queensland that the health minister has. I have tabled those, as I mentioned. Accountability has well and truly gone out the window under the Labor government.

Not only does the minister think that Queenslanders do not deserve answers to questions on notice; he also thinks that Queenslanders do not deserve answers about significant issues facing our communities. We are still waiting for the report into the Moorooka bus incident, and we are yet to see the latest annual report to the Director of Mental Health for 2015-16, which is being kept secret by the health minister.

The minister has even been hiding the waiting list for the waiting list. Under Labor up to 2012, people were marked 'never to be seen'—never to be seen at all. At the Gold Coast and at the RBWH, they were marked 'never to be seen'. That was the record of Labor up to 2012. The Attorney-General asked what happened before 2012; we know that. People were marked 'never to be seen'. The minister always talks about long waits but he never discloses the waiting list for the waiting list.

For the first time in our state's history, a hospital and health service board was forced to resign because of the state government's lack of oversight. I asked about this issue at Cairns Hospital last year. It was not until months later when the HHS was \$18 million in debt—unprecedented in our history—that the minister gave in and confirmed that there was an issue.

That is not all. Under Labor, our mental health system is quite literally operating behind closed doors. We have victims and families of victims who have been locked out of the Mental Health Review Tribunal's processes. We have victims and families of victims left without answers after rushed amendments were put through the House to validate 11,000 cases which were presided over by an unqualified member in the Mental Health Court without a review. We have reports of breaches and serious incidents that have all occurred behind the closed doors of mental health facilities. Yet the minister does not see anything wrong with the mental health system in its current form. The minister was eager to push through these bandaid fixes to cover up a fundamentally broken system. We have nurses crying out for help because they are experiencing systematic bullying within this broken system.

The minister is more than happy to front up for soft stories and selfies, but he disappears and hands it over to the HHSs when it comes to the real issues. We are 'health friends' on this side; they are 'health frauds' on the other side. The government should be condemned for the culture of cover-ups and blame shifting.

(Time expired)