




Speech By
Bruce Saunders

MEMBER FOR MARYBOROUGH

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Maryborough Hospital

 **Mr SAUNDERS** (Maryborough—ALP) (2.38 pm): I rise to give some really good news. All we have heard from those opposite is negativity. If they were as good as they say they are then they would be in government, but the election held less than 12 months ago sees them back on the opposition benches. They had better get used to it, because they are going to be there for a long time.

The good news is that under a Palaszczuk government the Maryborough Hospital is going ahead by leaps and bounds. As of last Friday there are 790 front-line staff working at Maryborough Hospital. Maryborough Hospital was brought to its knees by those opposite. They took away services. Under the LNP, the only thing you could get at Maryborough Hospital was a bandaid. Sometimes you were lucky to get that!

Since the Palaszczuk government came to power we have invested in front-line services with more treatment services for patients. Some 137,200 people went through the Maryborough Hospital last year. I will repeat that for those on the other side: 137,000. There were 34,300 outpatients, 20,390 emergency presentations, 21,000 dental visits, 21,000 mental health patient contacts, 6,000 allied health outpatients and 2,626 operations at the Maryborough Hospital, and that is because the Palaszczuk Labor government has really got the hospital firing. I want to thank the chair of the board, Peta Jamieson, other members of the board from the Maryborough electorate—Simone Xouris and Trevor Dixon, two great people on the board—CEO Adrian Pennington and the executive staff but also all of the staff of the Maryborough Hospital and the WBHHS.

They are achieving. We are doing things that those opposite dream about. They could not get the hospital going, but under the former health minister and the current health minister the Maryborough Hospital is moving forward. There is a massive redevelopment happening at the E&A thanks to the Palaszczuk Labor government. We invest in regional Queensland. They talk the talk, but they cannot walk the walk. I lived in regional Queensland under the Bjelke-Petersen National Party era and we got nothing. The Palaszczuk Labor government is a traditional Labor government and we are delivering in education and health. We are delivering in spades—absolute spades.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SAUNDERS: Listen to the rabble coming from those opposite. No wonder they are on the opposition benches. They will stay there—they will be superglued there—because the Queensland people have had enough of them. They have had enough of this rabble.