




Speech By
Leanne Linard

MEMBER FOR NUDGE

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ADJOURNMENT

Lady Cilento Children's Hospital

 **Ms LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (7.25 pm): Last term I had the great pleasure of chairing the parliamentary health committee. That role, as well as my role as a local member, provided an invaluable opportunity to learn more about our health system, the workforce and the legislation, policy and procedures they operate by and the challenges they face. All of the policy documents, public hearings, meetings and tours do not show you or teach you anywhere near as much as seeing that system in action firsthand.

On 31 January this year my seven-year-old son, Jordan, started coughing in the early hours of the morning. By the next morning, it did not seem to have developed, so we sent him to school, as many parents in here would have experienced and done the same. My husband, himself an RN, felt terrible when he was later called to come and pick him up from school because of vomiting. Within half an hour of arriving home, he deteriorated from being sick to having extremely laboured breathing and being almost nonresponsive. Seven to 10 minutes later he was in the back of an ambulance on his way to the Emergency Department of Lady Cilento Children's Hospital, met by the CCP en route.

After six intense hours of treatment in the Emergency Resuscitation Unit, he was stabilised and some time later admitted to the ward with high-flow oxygen to keep him breathing. For us, like anyone faced with a medical emergency, it was a point of crises, but for the health professionals we came into contact with, and indeed for all Queensland health professionals, it is what they do each and every day.

I feel very lucky to have the opportunity tonight, by virtue of my role in this chamber, to personally thank those health professionals: QAS paramedics Luke and Tim, CCP Katie, emergency doctors Adam Michael and Karin Heeney, emergency nurses Annie and Tahlia, and ward nurses Adele, Tori, Chantelle, Cassie and Elise at LCCH for their outstanding professionalism and care and for their kindness. I extend these thanks also to the volunteers who played Yahtzee by his bed and the hospital school teacher who made him keep up with his maths—yes, even in hospital you cannot avoid maths homework! When I thank them, I am thanking all of our hardworking health workforce on behalf of all of the Queensland families who have been assisted in their time of need.

It is a deeply held value within the Labor Party that how a society treats its most vulnerable is always the measure of its humanity. The ability of our health system to respond to the demands placed upon it, to resource the people who work within it and to care for the people who call upon it depends on the will of governments. The current federal government funding shortfall shows a lack of will and places at risk the treatment of thousands of Queenslanders. Canberra's own health funding umpire shows that Queensland is owed in the order of \$979 million for the 2014-15 to 2018-19 period. These are not numbers on a balance sheet but real services needed and real lives affected. I implore Canberra to take urgent action to meet their obligations to sick and vulnerable Queenslanders.