




Speech By
Leanne Linard

MEMBER FOR NUDGE

Record of Proceedings, 31 October 2018

MOTION

Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services

 **Ms LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (5.25 pm): I rise to oppose the baseless motion from the member for Mudgeeraba. The motion seeks to condemn the minister for his ‘wrong priorities’, so let us talk about what those apparent wrong priorities are. Since the election 12 months ago the health minister has: welcomed over 730 new doctors to Queensland public hospitals across the state in just the past year; continued to deliver on our promise of an additional 3,500 additional nurses and midwives, including 400 nurse navigators and 100 midwives, with thousands of them already employed; fought the federal LNP government on funding cuts and won—

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. The member is not taking interjections. I ask members to cease interjecting so I can hear the member’s contribution.

Ms LINARD: The minister has: expanded the specialist outpatient strategy; opened Townsville Hospital’s new \$8 million children’s ward; ensured that 1,400 extra cardiac patients will be seen at the Cairns hospital thanks to a second cardiac catheterisation laboratory; certified the new Queensland Ambulance Service agreement, making Queensland’s hardworking and highly professional paramedics among the best paid in the country; appointed a new Health Ombudsman; announced a \$105 million investment to address the impact of ice on Queenslanders, families and communities; commenced stage 1A of the \$124 million redevelopment of the Ipswich Hospital; assured that Queenslanders will be the first in the country to have access to the latest lifesaving cardiac technology thanks to a \$4 million boost to a new state-of-the-art imaging and navigation system at the Royal Brisbane and Women’s Hospital cardiac catheter lab; endorsed the detailed business case for the redevelopment of the Nambour Hospital; commenced construction on the new state-of-the-art public health facility as part of the \$1.1 billion Herston Quarter redevelopment—

Mr Mickelberg interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Buderim, you have made your contribution. You are warned under standing orders. I have just given a general direction to the chamber.

Ms LINARD: The minister has: launched a new program in parts of the Gold and Sunshine coasts targeting children to help raise childhood vaccination rates; and launched the SPIDER trial in a partnership between neurologists at RBWH and the Queensland Ambulance Service to improve outcomes for Queensland stroke victims.

I could go on and on. In my own electorate of Nudgee the health minister has opened a new multimillion dollar emergency and fleet management precinct and ambulance station at Geebung and a step-up step-down community mental health facility in Nundah. I ask the member for Mudgeeraba and all those opposite: which of these are the ‘wrong’ priorities? Given that you seem to like reciting

your alphabet, let's do it this way: (a) hiring the extra front-line health workers that Queenslanders need; (b) standing up for Queensland's hospitals after the Turnbull-Morrison LNP government withheld as much as \$1.2 billion from sick Queenslanders and you said nothing; (c) improving outcomes for cardiac patients—

Mr SPEAKER: Member, make sure you direct your comments through the chair.

Ms LINARD: Members of the opposition said nothing. Was it (c) improving outcomes for cardiac patients; (d) reinvesting in adolescent mental health services that the opposition cut; (e) increasing childhood immunisation rates; or (f) improving outcomes for stroke victims? Was it (j) delivering a new drug rehabilitation facility in Rockhampton; or (k) investing in extra beds and new facilities across Queensland? Which is it?

In the time I have left, I want to make some comments with regard to the government's decision to return the name of the Queensland Children's Hospital to the Queensland Children's Hospital. Everyone involved with the original project knows that it was always to be known as the Queensland Children's Hospital. As far back as 2009, all media articles referred to it as such. The government, the media, the medical profession, the community: everyone knew it. Since my election in 2015, doctors, nurses and staff of the hospital who live in my electorate have raised with me the changing of the name by former premier Newman as an issue. When it was raised with the health minister again this week and he responded that this call to return the hospital to its original name has come directly from the medical fraternity, I heard members of the opposition call out, 'What? Left doctors?'

What appears to have been lost on the member for Mudgeeraba and members of the opposition is that this is actually about Queensland children and their families—nothing else and no-one else. This is about Queensland children and families. Those doctors, nurses and medical staff and the hospital foundation itself, who are the ones calling for this change and who some of you are so willing to discount, are the very people—

Mr SPEAKER: Member, I ask you again to direct your comments through the chair.

Ms LINARD:—who some members of the opposition are so willing to discount, are the very people saving the lives of Queensland's sickest children. They make no mention of them. What the opposition is really doing is politicising an issue of its own making.

(Time expired)