




Speech By
Peter Russo
MEMBER FOR TOOHEY

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ADJOURNMENT

Metro South Health

 **Mr RUSSO** (Toohey—ALP) (7.28 pm): Tonight I intend to speak about how health care at the QEII is under threat from the federal government. Metro South Health is the most populated health service in Queensland and is the major provider of public health services, health education and research in Brisbane south. The services that are provided by Metro South Health are being put under pressure by the lack of commitment by the federal government to do two basic things: firstly, to pay Queensland what Queensland is due; and, secondly, to ensure that Queensland gets its fair share of the GST.

The opposition has been deathly silent on this issue, but it is not too late for the opposition to call on the federal government to pay Queensland what we are owed for past services and ensure that we get our fair share of the GST which is rightfully Queensland's. Malcolm Turnbull is cutting services to Queensland that are equal to the Newman cuts in 2012 and the Abbott cuts in 2014.

Malcolm Turnbull is cutting services to our health funding by not paying Queensland its fair share of GST. The Leader of the Opposition needs to choose whether Queensland will be put first or will the Leader of the Opposition put Malcolm Turnbull and her LNP mates before Queensland's interest? These cuts will hurt Queensland and costs jobs. The LNP only has one plan: cuts to services and cuts to jobs.

The Metro South health district is one of the most culturally diverse areas of Queensland, which is acknowledged and celebrated. It is estimated that more than a quarter of residents come from a different cultural or language group; the community has a rich diversity of ideas, skills, traditions and customs. All this diversity is put at risk because the federal government is intent on not ensuring that Queensland get its fair share of GST.

The Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services, Steven Miles, has stated that the QEII could lose \$16.6 million in health services following the federal government's decision to refuse funding it owes to Queensland hospitals. The minister has further stated that the \$16.6 million translated into 5,000 fewer medical procedures and other hospital admissions for patients of QEII. Do we hear a whimper, or for that matter any sound, from the opposition calling on the federal government to do the right thing for Queenslanders? The Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services has advised that the independent health funding umpire has ruled that the Commonwealth owes Queensland hundreds of millions of dollars for health care that has been provided to Queenslanders as far back as 2014.