



Speech By  
**Hon. Dr Steven Miles**

**MEMBER FOR MURRUMBA**

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Record of Proceedings, 2 May 2018

**MOTION**

**Palaszczuk Labor Government, Reports**

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (5.34 pm): For the member for Nanango to be making accusations about arrogance, hypocrisy and secrecy is just incredible. She was assistant treasurer in the most arrogant, the most hypocritical and the most secretive government Queensland has ever seen. Nowhere was that secrecy more damaging than in the Health portfolio.

They did not tell the people of Queensland that they planned to sack our front-line health workers—that they would sack 4,400 health staff, including 1,800 nurses and midwives. Their secrecy was literally bad for the health of Queenslanders, especially those who got sick and needed health care. To make their waiting list data look better the LNP kept a secret waiting list for the waiting list, leaving sick Queenslanders languishing waiting to see a specialist.

What is so cruel about that approach is that until a patient sees a specialist they often will not know how serious their illness is. When Labor came to government there were more than 104,000 Queenslanders on the LNP's secret waiting list. Some of those Queenslanders would have died as a result of the LNP's arrogance, hypocrisy and secrecy.

In government the LNP commissioned and never released no fewer than five health service investigations. The LNP motion talks about reports into mental health. Let us talk about reports into mental health. Let us talk about the report of the expert clinical reference group into the Barrett Adolescent Centre which recommended that the Barrett centre should not be closed without replacement. This report was so secret that the LNP health minister kept it secret from himself. The LNP minister for health did not even read the report let alone release it. He did not even read it when it was tabled in front of him by the then leader of the opposition now Premier. He did not even read it after he met with the young patients of the Barrett centre who were distressed about its impending closure. They begged him to keep it open. He ignored the report, he ignore their pleas and they closed the centre without replacement which, as we now know, had catastrophic consequences.

In their motion those opposite have demanded the release of a health service investigation report that they know very well we are legally not able to release at this time. This is despite the fact that the previous minister agreed to release the report publicly once it was appropriate to do so. If they want to talk about hypocrisy, using this House to demand the government release a report that we have agreed to release as soon as it is responsible to do so is hypocrisy.

Queenslanders got rid of that arrogant, hypocritical, secretive government and twice now elected the Palaszczuk government because we are none of those things. This government is open, accountable and transparent. No government in Australia proactively releases as much data about

hospital performance and patient safety as our government does—no other government. In contrast, the LNP actually axed the entire unit within Queensland Health that collected information on patient safety outcomes. In July 2016 Labor re-established the Patient Safety and Quality Improvement Service, which was axed by the Newman-Nicholls LNP government, with 20 full-time-equivalent staff.

When this government travels to the regions we let the community come to our community meetings. There are no appointments and no vetting. People can come along and have their say. We are transparent about the performance of Queensland's hospitals. Every month we release hundreds of data points, including the list the LNP kept secret. Thanks to that openness, we have dramatically reduced the number of people waiting for an outpatient specialist appointment.

Of course we listened to the Barrett centre families and the experts and we are building a new adolescent mental health facility informed by clinicians and consumers. When it comes to listening to and delivering for Queenslanders, the Palaszczuk government has a proud record. For that reason, I will be opposing this motion and I urge members to do the same.