Speech By

Cynthia Lui

MEMBER FOR COOK

Record of Proceedings, 1 May 2019

MOTION

Queensland Health; No Confidence in Minister for Health

Ms LUI (Cook—ALP) (5.47 pm): I rise to speak against the member for Mudgeeraba's motion. Queenslanders, including people in my electorate, know that Labor is the party that will invest in health care. They know that they can expect the best possible health care no matter where they live in our state.

An opposition member: Are you serious?

Ms LUI: Yes, I am. Mr Deputy Speaker, there is one thing that we have not touched on in any of the conversations we have had in this House today, and that is the cuts to health services in Far North Queensland. We need to accept that Far North Queensland is being left out and ignored. It is not being taken seriously. When we talk about cuts across the whole of Queensland and not receiving any support from the federal government, let alone those opposite, then it is a disgrace. It is a huge disappointment to the people of Queensland and—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart):Order, members! Member for Gregory, you have had your go.

Ms LUI:—in particular, communities in my electorate. What is most disappointing is that the federal government's April budget locked in the government's cuts to essential health services across Queensland, including Far North Queensland. That is such a disgrace!

My region has been hard hit by these savage cuts, with the Cairns and Hinterland Hospital and Health Service losing $32.9 million. That is a huge cut for a health service in regional Queensland. The sum of $32.9 million means a lot for communities in my electorate. It can fund so many procedures. That amount of funding could pay for 610 hernia repairs, 142 hip replacements, 268 knee replacements, 1,070 cataract procedures and 654 tonsillectomies. Let's be serious. This is real. This is what we face in regional Queensland, yet we have to sit here and listen to those opposite complain about what we are not doing. I commend the Minister for Health for all of his hard work in supporting the health service in Far North Queensland and in my communities in Cook.

From the Torres and Cape Hospital and Health Service the federal government is cutting $1.1 million. We are talking about remote communities in Queensland, in Australia. There is no backing from the federal LNP government. That amount is equal to 18 hernia repairs, 151 cataract procedures and 24 tonsillectomies. Let's put things into perspective and have a conversation about the reality. We need to address the cuts that the federal LNP government is making to communities in my electorate. I see the member for Mudgeeraba smiling. She has a lot to answer for. She was in Far North Queensland—

Mr Crandon interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Member for Coomera, you have had a pretty good go all session. You are now warned under the standing orders.

Ms LUI: The member for Mudgeeraba may think this is funny. In Far North Queensland she stood next to the federal member for Leichhardt, who does nothing for communities in Leichhardt, and said not a single word about reversing the federal LNP cuts or about supporting the health service in Far North Queensland to address many of the issues you are raising today. I take on board exactly what you—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Cook, direct your comments through the chair, please.

Ms LUI: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. The reality is that regional and remote Queensland need attention and support from the federal LNP government. It is up to those opposite to support regional and remote Queensland in the fight for better health services and better support from the federal LNP government to support what state Labor is currently doing to support communities in my electorate.

We talk about Queenslanders deserving world-class health services. This is not going to happen under the federal LNP government or those opposite. Only under Labor will we see better health services for communities.