




Speech By
Deb Frecklington

MEMBER FOR NANANGO

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MATTER OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Health System; Quirk, Lord Mayor G

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (2.00 pm): Queenslanders expect their health system to care for them when they are sick, but last week the sick were turned away from emergency departments. Queenslanders turned up to hear that their hospitals in the south-east corner were full. Our health system in Queensland was plunged into a full-scale crisis. It was unprecedented, but it was simply not a surprise.

Labor's health crisis has been building since the day the member for Inala was elected as Premier in this state. We have seen corridors crammed with patients on stretchers because there are no beds left. We have seen doctors forced to give mothers DIY birthing kits because Labor has shut maternity services in the bush. We have seen cancerous transplant tissue given to four children. I have stood side by side with the mother of a child who had chemo in the kitchen of the Lady Cilento children's hospital. Regional towns are crying out for more doctors and more nurses. Ambulance ramping has jumped to 25 per cent. Nothing is worse than Labor telling Queenslanders that their hospitals are full. Nothing could be worse than that.

Labor then blamed patients for the hospitals being full. The hospitals ran out of beds, but the Premier never runs out of excuses. The Premier first of all blamed the federal government. Then she blamed the winter flu, but no it was the summer flu. Then the Premier blamed the elderly. It was a national embarrassment. No other state is experiencing any form of health crisis like what we are seeing in Queensland.

Simon Judkins, the president of the Australasian College for Emergency Medicine, called it a crisis. We had Beth Mohle of the Queensland Nurses' Union call it a crisis. But the Premier said, 'No, they are wrong. There is nothing to see here.' The Premier in fact said, 'The system was working just as it was intended.' It may be how the Palaszczuk government intends the health system to work, but it certainly is not how the LNP and every Queenslanders expects their health system to work. It is an arrogant government that blames everyone but themselves. Now everyone in Queensland knows what a code yellow is thanks to the Labor government.

We then had the health minister come out and say, 'The hospitals have returned to normal. Nothing to see here.' What did we see of the health minister? He finished last week by posting on social media that he was having a cup of coffee. It was like, 'I've had such a big day. I need to sit, give myself a pat on the back and have a coffee.' What the health minister should have been doing was thanking the hardworking doctors, nurses and administration staff who had to battle this crisis. He should have thanked the patients for having patience and for waiting for the Palaszczuk government to fix up the crisis made by the Palaszczuk government. They are the people who need a break and not this health minister giving himself a nice little pat on the back and having a cup coffee.

Queenslanders deserve a government that is going to put the health of Queenslanders first. The only priority of those opposite when it comes to health is ripping the name of Lady Cilento down off the children's hospital. The LNP would never waste taxpayers' money. We are the ones listening to the concerns of front-line health workers.

I am sure I speak on behalf of the whole House when I pay tribute to the Lord Mayor of Brisbane, Graham Quirk. They say nice guys always finish last. Graham Quirk proves that they do not. He is a gentleman, humble, kind and honest. I congratulate Councillor Adrian Schrunner on being chosen as his successor. I also congratulate the future deputy mayor, Councillor Krista Adams. They have a tough act to follow.

Graham Quirk will be remembered as one of the city's best ever mayors. Mayor of Brisbane is the biggest job in local government and Graham Quirk was born to do it. Just look at his legacy: Clem7 tunnel; Airportlink; Go Between Bridge; Legacy Way tunnel; and \$4 billion worth of road upgrades. The mayor and his LNP team knew Brisbane had to build infrastructure for the future. Lord Mayor Graham Quirk got to work. If only the Palaszczuk Labor government had some of that 'Quirk ethic'.

The only mark Labor have left on Brisbane is tearing down the Lady Cilento hospital sign. That is their landmark project for Brisbane. Lord Mayor Graham Quirk has shown Queensland just how bad the Palaszczuk government is. His achievements have put this Labor state government to absolute shame. He did not just build infrastructure; he delivered 40 all-ability playgrounds, CityHopper ferries, the City of Lights project and the South-East Queensland City Deal. He would have started building Brisbane Metro by now if this government had got off its behind.

When it comes to transport infrastructure the Palaszczuk government is always late, just like our trains. This week we have seen even more excuses, more finger-pointing, more delays from the transport minister over the M1. The federal government has put down another half a billion dollars to upgrade the M1 between Daisy Hill and the Logan Motorway. This opportunity should be grabbed with two hands, Minister.

What have we heard from this transport minister? It is the same whining that we have heard for last four years. No-one is listening and Bill Shorten definitely is not. He thinks that Queensland should pay for half the cost of the M1. Now I appreciate that the Treasurer in Queensland has not given the transport minister enough money to spend on infrastructure, but if he was not paying \$422,000 a week in overtime for QR he might have some money to spend on roads.

Mr Bailey interjected.

Mr Crisafulli interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Order! Member for Miller. Member for Broadwater. You don't need to wink at me.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I appreciate that the member for South Brisbane, the Queensland Treasurer, has not given the transport minister enough money to spend on infrastructure. If he was not paying almost half a million dollars a week in overtime for QR drivers, he might have more money to spend on the roads. Queenslanders are sick of excuses from the Labor government over the M1. The LNP built the M1, and we are the only ones who will guarantee the extra investment that it needs.

It has been 30 years since the Fitzgerald report was published. The report recommended that compulsory preferential voting be scrapped in state elections—and for good reasons too. No-one should be forced to vote for a party that they do not want to vote for, but that is what Labor brought about when they teamed up with the Katters to change the voting system in the dead of night.

I was appalled by the statements made by Pauline Hanson and her One Nation sidekicks. John Howard's gun laws are not for sale and never will be, but we have heard nothing from those opposite other than fake outrage. We all know the truth. Never forget that the Palaszczuk Labor government is only here because of One Nation preferences. It is those opposite who have brought in this system—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Members, you do not need to be shouting across the chamber. You will not quarrel across the chamber, as the Speaker has already indicated. Member for Nanango, you have 18 seconds.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Labor has created this system. It is time to scrap CPV and bring back just vote one. It is time to give democracy a go and bring back just vote one.