



Speech By  
**Deb Frecklington**


**MEMBER FOR NANANGO**

---

Record of Proceedings, 22 August 2019

## ADJOURNMENT

### South Burnett, Paediatrician

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (6.00 pm): The South Burnett needs a paediatrician. In just a few weeks at our Townsville sitting I will be tabling a petition coordinated by the South Burnett Under 4s Network calling on the Palaszczuk Labor government to fund a full-time paediatrician to be based in the South Burnett. I acknowledge Peta Clarkson, who has worked hard to get this petition around our community. It already has 1,100 signatures. This weekend at BaconFest there will be a table for all of the locals to come and sign the petition because we need a paediatrician for the South Burnett.

On this side of the House we have been highlighting this important issue for years now. My previous requests to the Labor health minister have been rejected. He has an obvious disregard for regional communities such as ours and does not understand the difficulties facing parents who are trying to have their—

**Mr Dick:** We're building the hospital.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** I take that interjection because I was waiting for it. This is how out of touch this government is. They think that building a building is going to bring a paediatrician.

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Pause the clock.

**Ms McMillan** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Mansfield!

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** This is exactly what the community have been saying. They have been saying, 'Minister Dick came in. He talked about the big building.' He talked about it, but it is empty. They want a paediatrician, Minister. That is how out of touch these people are. It is unbelievable. We have the screeching happening over there saying, 'Kingaroy, you should drive to Toowoomba,' which is what the minister told my locals. Do not worry about when we are going to build the new hospital. It is still not going to have a paediatrician. Catch up!

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Pause the clock. Members, it has been a big week. We are on the adjournment. Let us get through the adjournment.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** How embarrassing is the Minister for State Development, who thinks that a building is going to be able to deliver paediatric services to the youth. We have a hospital right now that does not have a paediatrician. The teachers want it. The parents want it. The community want it. Unfortunately, the Palaszczuk government believe that they are going to build the building but they do

not have to put the services in it. That is why the South Burnett is calling on this incompetent Palaszcuk government to give the South Burnett a paediatrician. The minister has just asked someone out there to write something for him. You would think he would be smart enough to write his own speech. We need a paediatrician for the South Burnett.

*(Time expired)*