



Speech By  
**Joseph Kelly**


**MEMBER FOR GREENSLOPES**

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Record of Proceedings, 1 May 2019

**MOTION**

**Queensland Health; No Confidence in Minister for Health**

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (5.16 pm): I was disappointed I missed out earlier to speak to a motion regarding all workers and the opportunity to stick up for all workers. I will have to content myself with talking about health workers today. I am going to start by saying that I reject this ridiculous motion. How could we take seriously an opposition spokesperson who is a nurse who voted against—with one other nurse in this place—safe nurse-to-patient ratios and safe midwife-to-patient ratios? That is not an opposition health spokesperson that you can take seriously. Every nurse and every midwife that I know tells me how important those ratios are. I am sure if they were given the chance to vote for ratios in aged care they would be against those as well.

I want to turn my attention to dot point 2 in the motion, the digital hospital program. This is an area that I am particularly interested in and I particularly reject this notion. I am very disappointed with the constant media attention by Fairfax in relation to this matter. The information they are putting forward is four to five years out of date. The sorts of errors and mistakes that they are putting forward happened on a paper based system. I have worked as a nurse over the last 30 years in a paper based system. The reality is that the digital hospital program works. I will give the House some statistics to back that up. Unlike the member for Mudgeeraba, I do not carp on and make things up. I investigate things and I do my own research. I went to the PA and I took a tour of the digital hospital program. I did not take their word on this. I came into the House and I asked questions on notice in relation to this. Medication errors since the introduction of the digital hospital program have reduced by eight per cent. Falls within the hospital have reduced by more than 11 per cent. Infections within the hospital have been reduced by 37 per cent. Level 4 patient pressure injuries have fallen by over 50 per cent.

I can tell the House that as a nurse and somebody who studied health economics this means good things. Firstly, it means very good things for the patients. Falls, skin tears, pressure areas, infections and medication errors lead to catastrophic outcomes for patients. The first thing we are seeing is that there are good outcomes for patients. The second thing we are seeing is that there are good outcomes for our financial and budget situation because all of those things cost more money. They also result in patients staying in hospital for shorter periods of time. If we can reduce these things, we can get people home and we can get more people through the hospital.

I want to move on and talk about the Palaszczuk Labor government's achievements in relation to nursing. I notice there is some talk in there about the QNMU. When I talk to members and delegates from the QNMU—and I doubt they would talk to the member for Mudgeeraba; I would not want to tell the House what they are saying about the actions of the member for Mudgeeraba and the member for Currumbin in relation to ratios—they want to talk about what we have done for nurses.

**Mrs STUCKEY:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I find the member's comments offensive. I ask him to withdraw.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Greenslopes?

**Mr KELLY:** I withdraw. They talk to me about ratios. They talk to me about the introduction of nurse navigators. They talk to me about the re-establishment of new graduate positions. They talk to me about the increase in nurses. What they do not talk to me about is the real crisis that happened under the LNP, and I was there for that crisis. There were cuts to nurses. We were given a letter that said that five per cent of the nurses at the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital would be gone. There was decimation of the safety and quality units and the closure of the Barrett Adolescent Centre. These are the real crises and they were perpetrated by the state LNP, but the federal government is no better, with \$26 million out of the hospitals in Griffith. There is the real crisis. The LNP is the real crisis in health.

*(Time expired)*