




Speech By
Joseph Kelly

MEMBER FOR GREENSLOPES

Record of Proceedings, 5 September 2019

MOTION

Newman LNP Government, Performance

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (12.03 pm): I back this motion and I can tell the House what else I back: I back nurses. I am proud to be part of a government that backs nurses and backs midwives. We have ministers and a Premier who back nurses and midwives. What the Premier does not do is sack nurses and midwives. We have put the nurses back to work and we have gone further. Queensland is only the fourth place in the world to introduce ratios. I am extremely proud to have been a nurse who voted for that. I am sad to say that not every nurse in this House voted for ratios. In the run-up to the next election, I will be reminding every nurse in this state that if they support the member for Mudgeeraba because they think that she has the solution for nursing, the LNP will get rid of ratios and then they will get rid of nurses. They will do it all over again.

It is great to be in Townsville. It is great to come back to the town where I received my education and where my family lived. This is the place where my nursing journey started. After I did work experience and volunteer work with St Vincent's de Paul, my father said, 'What do you want to do with your life?'

Mr Batt: Leave Townsville.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Bundaberg, you are already under a warning. You can leave the chamber for one hour.

Whereupon the honourable member for Bundaberg withdrew from the chamber at 12.04 pm.

Mr SPEAKER: I hope the message is becoming clear for members. My tolerance is low for people flouting the standing orders today.

Mr KELLY: My father had a huge look of relief on his face when I told him that I wanted to be a nurse, because it meant that I did not have to go to university and I was off his hands. Straight after that, he said to me, 'That's a great job. You're going to be doing something that really matters to people. You know what? It's also a job that you will have for life. It's a secure job. You are never going to have to think about your future.'

Fast-forward to 2012 and we saw the unthinkable happen: nurses and midwives were chucked out. I was there at the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital when the clipboard carriers came in. They did not come in and do a review, work out an intelligent plan or sit down and think through all the issues. They walked in and said, 'Here's a number and we're getting rid of that number. We don't care what it means for the people lying in the beds, the people you are caring for.'

I can give the House a great example. What did the 'champions of the bush' sitting opposite do? In my area, the first group to be sacked was the stroke outreach team, which was a group of nurses and allied health professionals who supported stroke patients we were discharging to regional and

remote Queensland. They got rid of them. They cut jobs. During that time, nine friends and colleagues lost their jobs in a whole range of areas. I can tell the House that some of those people are still rebuilding their lives.

I am proud to be back here in Townsville, because this is a government that creates jobs in Townsville. It creates jobs in Greenslopes. It is a government that creates jobs everywhere. We do not sack and we certainly do not sack nurses.

(Time expired)