




Speech By
Hon. Shannon Fentiman

MEMBER FOR WATERFORD

Record of Proceedings, 16 May 2019

ADJOURNMENT

Logan Hospital; Federal Election

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (6.14 pm): I rise tonight to speak on an issue that is a key priority for my constituents in Waterford: funding for the Logan Hospital. Many people in my community rely on the Logan Hospital to provide quality health care for them and their family. Under federal LNP cuts to health care, more than \$6 million was ripped out of our local hospital. It is an absolute disgrace. Logan is one of the fastest growing communities in the state of Queensland, and we need investment in our front-line services. We do not need more of the LNP's cuts and chaos. The Palaszczuk Labor government is doing its fair share of the heavy lifting by investing \$281 million to increase the capacity of Logan Hospital from 448 to 640 beds, but we need the federal government to come to the table. Most importantly, we need a federal local member of parliament who will stand up for us and for the Logan Hospital.

This election has proved that only one local candidate is willing to do that. This week, the federal Labor candidate for Forde, Des Hardman, announced that a federal Labor government would invest \$29.1 million in the hospital to build an extra floor and a 32-bed ward. Des has secured \$33.4 million for an urgent and specialist care centre to help treat patients who present at emergency. This will provide vital relief to the Logan Hospital emergency department, one of the busiest in the state. Forde needs a local member like Des Hardman who knows what is needed to fix these problems. As a radiographer at Logan Hospital over 14 years, he saw firsthand the issues this hospital faces. He knows what happens when we leave our hospitals in the hands of the LNP. He saw the impacts of the Newman government cuts which saw 1,800 nurses across the state sacked.

Logan Hospital cannot afford another three years of LNP government. This is why this Saturday voters in Waterford and across Logan have a choice. Do we want more funding for our Logan Hospital? Do we want someone who stands up for our families, who knows firsthand the issues of health care and who ensures that no matter where you live or how much money you have you can get first-class healthcare treatment at the local hospital? The only candidate this Saturday in the election is Des Hardman for the Labor Party. I have known Des for many years and am incredibly proud to call him a good friend. I know that he will absolutely deliver for our families in Waterford and across Logan. It is absolutely time to support Des Hardman and Labor this Saturday.