



Speech By  
**Hon. Shannon Fentiman**


**MEMBER FOR WATERFORD**

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Record of Proceedings, 23 October 2019

**MOTION**

**Queensland Health**

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (5.04 pm): I rise to oppose the motion moved by the member for Mudgeeraba and to condemn the track record of the Newman government in which she served. How dare the member for Mudgeeraba have the gall to move the motion when it was her government that sacked 4,400 health staff, including 1,800 nurses and midwives? The member for Mudgeeraba sat around the cabinet table for only one year, but the member was there to make those decisions to cut all those nurses and midwives.

Let us not forget the Newman government's unprecedented attack on doctors' pay and conditions. The LNP picked a fight with doctors so severe that highly trained specialists were left feeling they had no choice but to resign. Before election to this House I served as a lawyer for senior medical officers and represented doctors who spoke out against their unfair contracts. I also spoke in this House on the restoring fairness bill that our government had to pass to undo the health mess of those opposite. The medical community was clear: the attacks on frontline staff would blow out wait times. What did we see when the Palaszczuk government came to government? There were more than 104,000 Queenslanders on the wait list for the wait list.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Minister, I apologise. Members to my left, I am having difficulty hearing the minister. She is not taking interjections. I will start naming members for not putting their comments through the chair. The members for Scenic Rim and Glass House are guilty of the same error.

**Ms FENTIMAN:** What about mental health support? Under the LNP government, mental health support did not fare much better. In its first year alone it gutted \$45 million from mental health spending, reducing spending on mental health to the lowest level per capita in this country. Let us not forget its appalling record in terms of the closure of the Barrett Adolescent Centre and the innocent lives lost due to its reckless handling of the situation—another decision for which the member for Mudgeeraba sat around the cabinet table. How dare those opposite talk about a health crisis when their legacy is clear for all to see?

In my community of Logan, the Palaszczuk government is investing almost half a billion dollars in a massive expansion of Logan Hospital. While we are investing in infrastructure to expand capacity and keep up with demand at Logan Hospital, those opposite will not even commit to match a single hospital infrastructure project. In fact, during the 2017 election campaign the member for Surfers Paradise attacked our election commitments to expand the Logan, Caboolture and Ipswich hospitals, saying that they were not needed and had nothing to do with meeting the future needs of Queensland's hospital system. It is absolutely outrageous just how out of touch they are with our communities and their health needs.

Earlier this month I joined the health minister at Logan Hospital—along with the members for Macalister, Logan and Springwood—to watch as a new rapid expansion medical ward was craned in, signalling the start of our massive expansion at Logan Hospital. This new ward will provide 28 additional beds—a major boost for capacity at Logan Hospital. Of course, the record of members opposite was clear: they slashed doctors and nurses at Logan Hospital, and there was not one cent in infrastructure. Of course, the doctors at Logan Hospital were absolutely appalled at the attack on their conditions.

**Mr Power:** What about the midwifery services?

**Ms FENTIMAN:** I take that interjection from the member for Logan. They closed community midwifery services in Logan. The Palaszczuk government has brought them back. We are incredibly proud of that. An additional 73 new, full-time employees will be hired at Logan, including doctors, nurses, health professionals and support staff for the new wards. This is in stark contrast to the record of those opposite. That is not all. By early next year we will deliver on our commitment to add a new mental health decision unit to the emergency department which will provide a safe and quiet area for patients experiencing a mental health crisis to be triaged and treated.

Work is also expected to start next year on the new Logan maternity area—a major refurbishment of the hospital's maternity inpatient unit, birthing suites and a special care nursery—because we recognise what a growing community we have in Logan. We are hiring more staff and providing the infrastructure that our community needs. Unlike those opposite, we are committed to delivering the health services Queenslanders need. They cut, sack and sell.

*(Time expired)*