




Speech By
Hon. Dr Steven Miles
MEMBER FOR MURRUMBA

Record of Proceedings, 1 May 2019

MOTION

Queensland Health; No Confidence in Minister for Health

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (5.58 pm): Tonight we see another ham-fisted attempt by the member for Mudgeeraba to get herself some attention by claiming there is a crisis and scaring Queenslanders. It is disgraceful. Her Chicken Little routine is not fooling anyone; nor are her falsehoods. No-one who goes to an emergency department is turned away. It is the most outrageous slight on our emergency department clinicians to accuse them of that, as she has in this motion tonight. I have spent a lot of time in our hospitals, and the patients I meet cannot speak more highly of our amazing staff and the work they do. To hear those opposite talk down our health system and disparage our hardworking medical professionals is more than disappointing, but it is all they know how to do—fight with doctors, put them down, sack them.

The Palaszczuk government has rebuilt our front-line health services after the savage cuts of the Newman government. We have hired almost 6,000 more nurses and midwives, more than 2,000 doctors and we have delivered 527 new beds, with hundreds more to come, and that means that when our system sees an increase the size of the population of Mount Isa in just one month it can respond. We all know that last month was unseasonably busy, but the performance data shows that 99 per cent of the sickest patients were seen within two minutes of getting to a hospital and the median wait time across all categories was just 17 minutes.

We on this side of the House are building hospitals. Those opposite went to two elections without committing to any hospital infrastructure. Can members imagine the mess our hospitals would be in now if those opposite had been allowed to continue in government? But Queenslanders know better. If those opposite wanted to redeem themselves—if they wanted to do something for our health system to help it deal with increasing demand—they would pressure their federal colleagues to pay our hospitals what they owe them. They could stand with Queenslanders and demand Canberra repay us the \$316 million it owes for surgeries already performed in our hospitals, but they are too cowardly to do that. The member for Everton even admitted he is too scared to even raise it with his party bosses in Canberra. He would rather make excuses for his masters and his mate Peter Dutton than even raise this issue with them—an issue that I know is worrying Queenslanders and one that will be very much on their minds come federal election day. When 18 May comes around, Queenslanders will remember the Abbott-Turnbull-Morrison government's record on health, just as Queenslanders remember the record of those opposite when they sacked 4,400 doctors, nurses and healthcare staff.

I also want to point out that the member for Mudgeeraba has now misled the House twice just today. United Voice supports the rapid transfer process for paramedics. The member knew it when she made the false claim in the House today, and she definitely knows it is false now because it wrote to her today to correct the record and ask her to withdraw her comments. Instead, she came back in here and repeated her falsehoods again. The rapid transfer process gets paramedics back into the

community and saving the next life quicker, and United Voice has affirmed its support for it. The member for Mudgeeraba can come in here and try to whip up all the hysteria she likes, but no-one is buying it. Those of us on this side of the House will continue to build the hospitals of the future and we will keep training our medical workforce, not just in city centres but right across the state, to see more health care delivered by locals for locals. We will continue hiring doctors and nurses, radiologists and cardiologists, physios and allied health professionals, Indigenous health workers and every other health professional. Our record is clear, and so is theirs.