




Speech By  
**Hon. Dr Steven Miles**  
**MEMBER FOR MURRUMBA**

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Record of Proceedings, 5 September 2019

## MOTION

### Newman LNP Government, Performance

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (12.22 pm): I rise to speak in support of the motion, and in particular part 1(b) of the motion, which notes that the former Newman LNP government sacked 398 health workers, including 156 nurses and midwives. It was not just nurses and midwives: it was doctors, radiographers, sonographers, dieticians, occupational therapists, physical therapists, speech pathologists, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners, councillors, psychologists and paramedics.

There was not a health worker immune to the cuts of the LNP, nor were the NGOs that delivered services here in Townsville such as Diabetes Queensland, Drug-Arm, Eating Disorders Queensland, the Kidney Support Network—the Kidney Support Network—Mission Australia, Lupus Australia, the National Heart Foundation, the Royal Flying Doctor Service and the Lung Foundation Australia. They had a secret plan to rip funds from community self-care organisations like Alzheimer's Queensland, the Amputees and Families Support Group Qld, Arthritis Queensland and the Stillbirth and Neonatal Death Support Group. Nowhere was immune to their health cuts. They wanted to close or sell every single one of our state owned aged-care facilities. That was their plan, and sadly they succeeded in the case of some of them.

**Ms Pease** interjected.

**Dr MILES:** I take that interjection from the member for Lytton. All this motion does is ask the Leader of the Opposition to do the simplest thing: apologise and say to the people of Townsville, 'I am sorry. I am sorry I cut your health workers. I am sorry I cut your health services. I am sorry I cut funding to important community organisations delivering services here,' because until she does, Queenslanders will know what the LNP's plans are.

**Ms Leahy** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Warrego.

**Dr MILES:** Queenslanders will know that they will return to type, that they will sack nurses and midwives again—

**Ms Leahy** interjected.

**Dr MILES:**—that they will start right here in Townsville again, and a government like ours—

**Ms Leahy** interjected.

**Dr MILES:**—will need to come in and rebuild those health services by employing more nurses, midwives and doctors and re-funding our community organisations, as we have done.