




Speech By
Hon. Dr Steven Miles

MEMBER FOR MURRUMBA

Record of Proceedings, 18 September 2019

MOTION

Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, No Confidence

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (5.26 pm): I rise to speak against this motion and in support of the Deputy Premier, because without the Deputy Premier and Treasurer Queensland would not have a record \$19.2 billion investment in our hospitals this financial year. As you know, Labor governments believe in delivering jobs for Queenslanders, education for Queensland kids and free universal health care for everyone, no matter where they live—

Mr Mander interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Everton, this is the last time I will give you any guidance.

Dr MILES:—and nobody personifies those priorities and values more than the Deputy Premier. As Deputy Premier and Treasurer, she is delivering those things for Queensland. Our record Health budget means our hospitals are treating more people than ever before. As more and more people put their faith in our fantastic public hospital system, that demand means we need more doctors, nurses, specialists, allied health workers and support staff.

The Palaszczuk government, with the leadership of this Deputy Premier and Treasurer, has rebuilt the public health system and its workforce after it was decimated by the LNP. Thanks to the Deputy Premier's leadership we are improving health services with an extra 400 nurse navigators and 100 additional midwives. We are adding 200 more paramedics. The Treasurer's budget is slashing specialist outpatient wait times via the Specialist Outpatient Strategy and she is giving a \$17.5 million boost to aeromedical services, providing vital emergency transport for sick and injured people in Queensland, especially those in rural and remote areas.

The Deputy Premier understands that in many of our regional towns the local health service is a cornerstone. It employs local people in permanent roles to take care of their community, and when we upgrade those services it creates more local jobs in construction. Across Queensland we have 58 projects under construction, creating more than 770 full-time jobs each year. These projects are providing major health infrastructure in metropolitan, regional, rural and remote communities across the state.

These projects are at Ipswich, Logan, Caboolture, Caloundra, Roma, Blackall, Kingaroy, Maryborough, Sarina, Hervey Bay, Bundaberg, Gladstone, Rockhampton, Townsville, Mareeba, Cairns, Atherton and on the islands of the Torres Strait. The budget delivered by this Deputy Premier is creating almost 3,000 jobs across these growth areas. She is a Deputy Premier who is delivering for the health of Queenslanders, for the wellbeing of Queenslanders and for the livelihood of Queenslanders. I and everyone in this House should have absolute confidence in her.

Those we cannot have confidence in are those opposite—those opposite who, when they had their chance, sacked 4,400 health staff including 1,800 nurses and midwives, those opposite who have not made a single significant proposal for health care in this state, those opposite who have made no commitments to new hospitals or more staff or services. They have the hide to criticise the Deputy Premier who has consistently delivered those things for Queensland. It is those opposite who Queenslanders expressed no confidence in at the last election and the one before that and they will express no confidence in them again next year.

Queenslanders cannot have confidence in an LNP that still refuses to declare \$100,000 of secret donations. They cannot have confidence in a party which cannot remember who their donors are. They cannot have confidence in a party which will not tell Queenslanders who is funding their election campaigns. They will stop at nothing to get their dodgy donations in.

Mr Millar interjected.

Dr MILES: Queenslanders know who the dodgy ones are and it is not the Deputy Premier. It is every single one of those opposite—every single one who has spoken in favour of this motion, every single one who will vote for this motion.

Mr Millar interjected.

(Time expired)