




Speech By
Hon. Dr Steven Miles
MEMBER FOR MURRUMBA

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MOTION

Queensland Health

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (5.55 pm): As we have heard convincingly in this debate tonight, the LNP has no credibility whatsoever when it comes to health care. They sacked 4,400 health staff, 1,800 of whom were nurses and midwives. They attacked doctors' pay and conditions. They cut the nursing graduate intake to record lows. They completely gutted mental health support, and let us never forget the tragic consequences of their decision to close the Barrett Adolescent Centre without replacement.

They almost entirely dissolved preventive health in Queensland, cutting 177 staff across the state and millions of dollars in funding to NGOs including the Australian Red Cross, although not just the Red Cross. They also cut funding from Diabetes Queensland, Drug ARM, the Eating Disorders Association, the Kidney Support Network, Mission Australia, Lupus Australia, the National Heart Foundation, the Royal Flying Doctor Service and the Lung Foundation. They intended to cut funding from the Advanced Breast Cancer Group, Alzheimer's Queensland, the Amputees and Family Support Group, Arthritis Queensland, the Stillbirth and Neonatal Death Support Group, the Asbestos Related Disease Support Society and the Gynaecological Cancer Society.

Let us remember that they left 104,000 Queenslanders waiting for a specialist outpatient appointment. In order to sell their wait-time guarantee, they created a waitlist for the waitlist, because that has always been their way. They have always opted for the glossy ad campaign over substantive policy. That is what they want to spend money on—spin. They are all style and no substance.

Mr Mickelberg interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Buderim, you are warned under the standing orders.

Dr MILES: They are all sizzle and no sausage. They are all foam and no beer. They are all icing and no cake. They are all tip and no iceberg. They had no plans whatsoever to build new or substantially expand any hospitals. The only projects they progressed had been planned for and approved by previous Labor governments, but they could not even open those properly. Look at what they did with the children's hospital.

Labor has reversed those cuts and we have started building again. Since the 2015 election, we have hired 2,012 more doctors, 6,252 more nurses and midwives, 511 more paramedics and 1,800 more health professionals. This financial year we are hiring 800 more nurses, 200 more doctors, 200 more health professionals and 200 more paramedics.

We have opened 888 additional hospital beds across the state. Over the next four years we will deliver a further 756 additional beds. Every time the employment data is released those opposite criticise us for employing too many more doctors, too many more nurses, too many more health professionals.

The opposition leader has taken to announcing every day how many days there are until the next election. I notice the member for Nicklin did it too—374. She did it a bit awkwardly at the Pharmacy Guild dinner, but that is okay. She is sign posting how she is arrogantly awaiting her intended coronation. She needs to use some of those days to say which doctors and nurses she would sack—which ones she thinks we should not have employed.

Instead of employing more nurses and building more hospital beds, the LNP say that they will partner with the private sector. That is their only policy: partner with the private sector. We all know what that means. They want to privatise Queensland health services. When the LNP leader talks about outsourcing public services to the private sector she is talking about sacking health staff who deliver care in our public hospitals. She is talking about sending taxpayers' money to her mates in the private sector to increase their profits. What about in regional Queensland where they do not have private hospital and probably do not even have a GP? The LNP only knows one way. They want to sack health staff and privatise health services. It is about time they came clean with their plan for Queensland.

(Time expired)