



Speech By  
**Tim Mander**


**MEMBER FOR EVERTON**

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Record of Proceedings, 1 May 2019

**MOTION**

**Queensland Health; No Confidence in Minister for Health**

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (5.53 pm): I rise to speak in favour of the motion moved by the shadow minister. In particular, I want to speak to paragraph 4, which calls on the House to express no confidence in Labor's health minister. When motions of no confidence in a minister are moved, it is always interesting to see who from the government speaks in support of that minister. The only cabinet colleague the minister could get to speak in support of him today is the member for Cooper. I suspect that is because she sits next to him in parliament and feels that she needs to support him.

I note that the member for Stafford did not speak in favour of the Minister for Health. There has been a lot of speculation about whether the member for Stafford would stay in parliament or go back to his practice in the public health system. I suspect that the reason he has stayed in parliament and has not gone back to the public health system is that the Labor government is running the public health system. It is my bet that when the LNP gets control of Health once again the member for Stafford will be out of this place quick smart, back into the public health system which he knows will then be run properly. The Minister for Health is so desperate to get colleagues to support him that he himself has had to speak to this motion of no confidence in him.

**Mr Hart:** Even he didn't want to do it!

**Mr MANDER:** I take that interjection. Members on this side of the House have very powerfully and articulately put a case showing that the health system has gone back to the bad old days of the Bligh government. Despite the bragging about the extra staff that are in our hospitals, the health system is now delivering worse results than four years ago. Despite the extra staff, ambulance ramping, emergency department processing times and elective surgery waiting times have all blown out under this administration and this minister.

This is a minister who not only is incompetent but also lacks courage. When the going gets tough in his portfolio, he hides. When the going gets tough in his portfolio, he puts out the poor public servants to deliver the bad news. When it was the tissue bank bungle, where cancerous tissues were incorrectly given to four children, who had to go out? The Chief Health Officer had to front the media. Who had to release, on a Friday afternoon, the mental health report relating to the death of Manmeet Sharma? It was the deputy director-general. The minister was nowhere to be seen. When the Gold Coast HHS planned to outsource the Commonwealth Home Support Program, whose fault was that? It was not the minister's! The minister blamed middle management and said they had made a misjudgement. The worst one was when they changed the name of the Lady Cilento hospital. Who do members think communicated that to the Cilento family? It was not the director-general and it was not the deputy director-general; the PA of the director-general communicated the bad news. This minister lacks courage.

There is no greater example of a loss in confidence not just by those on this side of the House but also by Queenslanders than his handling of the renaming of the Lady Cilento hospital. First we had the bodgie survey. We all suspect that many votes came from the government and the ministerial offices. Then we had a so-called petition. At one moment it was from 1,000 doctors, then it was from 800 doctors and then it was from hospital staff. This is a petition that the minister still has not tabled or made public. We were told that the name of the hospital, the Cilento name, was affecting fundraising. Then the minister got up in the House and bragged about the record fundraising that had been done that year. In fact, changing the name has had the opposite result. There are people who are now not donating in protest.

This minister is clearly incompetent. This minister clearly lacks courage of conviction when it comes to owning up to the mistakes we constantly see. This side of the House has lost confidence in the minister. We urge the crossbench and even the government's own members to realise that this minister will bring this government down. When the health system fails, the government will fail. Queenslanders have totally lost confidence in this minister.