



Speech By  
**Christopher Whiting**


**MEMBER FOR BANCROFT**

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Record of Proceedings, 12 August 2020

## ADJOURNMENT

### Coronavirus, Palaszczuk Labor Government Response

 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (7.15 pm): I congratulate the Minister for Health, the Chief Health Officer and the Premier for leading the state through the COVID-19 pandemic. Many Queenslanders perhaps look at Victoria and say we were lucky, but what I say is that it is not luck. We are not in the Victorian situation because this government has made the right choices. The ALP rejected the cut, sack and sell approach from the LNP and built up the public health unit after losing 177 people under the LNP. I will repeat that: we built up the public health unit after 177 people were lost under the LNP. We built up our pathology labs, which means quicker results for Queenslanders, after 69 pathologists were sacked by the LNP. Let me repeat that: we built up our pathology labs after 69 pathologists were sacked by the LNP.

It clearly was not luck that the biggest decision made by the Minister for Health and the Premier was to listen to the advice of the Chief Health Officer and put her advice at the centre of our response. That shows great judgement. All of our health system, all of our government's response, is directed by that advice and the Premier's leadership—no jostling and no egos, which is very different to what we see in the LNP, who I note were not averse to stooping to criticise the Chief Health Officer when they wanted to.

During this time of the pandemic we have seen leadership dysfunction from the LNP in the parliament and in the party as well. Many Queenslanders say to me, 'Can you imagine what it would have been like if they were in charge?' For example, the member for Everton and the member for Kawana blundering around making pronouncements as they did last time. You would see ministers taking action based on a leadership contest and not the best health outcome. We know that we would have seen the borders swung open allowing anyone from Victoria to come up.

Let me reiterate that the Leader of the Opposition called 64 times for the border to be swung open at a time when COVID-19 was spreading silently through the Victorian population. The Leader of the Opposition would have put out the welcome mat. It displays her lack of judgement. It is not luck that has put Queenslanders in this position; it is the decisions of the Premier and this government. Every Queenslanders is thankful that the LNP was not in charge during this pandemic.