



Speech By  
**Amanda Camm**


**MEMBER FOR WHITSUNDAY**

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Record of Proceedings, 1 December 2021

**MOTION**

**Bundaberg, Health Services**

 **Ms CAMM** (Whitsunday—LNP) (5.55 pm): It was very enlightening to hear from the health minister about their proud record in health and about their record investment in health when the opposition only just uncovered the hundreds of millions of dollars of health cuts to our state. It is just called another name: it is called an efficiency dividend. Come and speak to my local health service and others across the state who are experiencing the challenges of this government's efficiency dividends.

I will reiterate that there is no COVID across most of our health system. I believe there has been an announcement just now of a single case on the Gold Coast, but our hospitals are already under enormous pressure with no cases of COVID. Yet, apparently, we are in great shape. Where is the member for Bundaberg?

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Pause the clock. The member will withdraw. You were here when that warning was issued before. You are very close to receiving a warning yourself.

**Ms CAMM**: I withdraw, Mr Deputy Speaker. When the member for Bundaberg speaks about the Bundaberg Hospital being a level 5 hospital, he is not speaking about a real level 5 hospital—perhaps just a hospital with five levels. When it comes to level 5 services, I think the community of Bundaberg and the community of Wide Bay are asking the question: how do you deliver level 5 services in built infrastructure that has not catered for level 5 services but they say is going to deliver level 5 services?

The member for Thuringowa outlined and blamed the federal government because that is what the state Labor government do when they mismanage budgets and when they mismanage resources: they blame the federal government. They refer to home care packages. They refer to the lack of GPs that we have across our state. I will remind the health minister about the lack of doctors and the lack of specialists that we have across our state—in particular, in Bundaberg and Mackay, where we have—important specialist roles—paediatricians, ENTs, gastroenterologists—that cannot be filled by this state Labor government. I ask the question: how can you continue to blame the Scott Morrison government yet you continue to increase the health budget across the state? I can tell you, Mr Deputy Speaker, it is called mismanagement and it is pretty clear from the statistics.

The member for Pumicestone outlined the statistics. I felt like I was in an ABS tutorial lesson. What was missed in those statistics was the increased ambulance ramping across our state, the waitlists across our state and the 200 people who walked out of the Bundaberg emergency department. That was raised in this House by the member for Burnett. Thank goodness that the community of Bundaberg have a good local member who crosses the borders. I can empathise with the member for Burnett. I understand the challenges when you have a member of the Labor government who borders your electorate but does not stand up for your local health and hospital service. The assistant minister for health, the member for Mackay, has been absent during the challenging times of the Mackay Base Hospital. She is not taking the phone calls of her constituents. I am receiving those calls in my office and bringing them forward into this chamber.

Is it acceptable that women have to wait more than eight weeks for a breast cancer screen? You do not need to be a doctor to know that BreastScreen exists for the early detection of breast cancer. That is why the federal government co-contributes to BreastScreen. The state's responsibility is to ensure it is adequately resourced. Right now the state government is failing the women of Bundaberg, who are unable to receive an early diagnosis from a lifesaving, simple, free test. That it is not good enough! A woman who lives in Bundaberg or any part of regional Queensland deserves the same standard of care as a woman who lives in South-East Queensland.

In relation to that point I want to correct the record. The member for Mackay referred to the member for Nanango not being a champion. Unlike the member for Mackay, who has been silent when it comes to maternity services in the Mackay Hospital and Health Service, the member for Nanango has been a champion for rural women when it comes to maternity services in rural and regional Queensland.

**Mrs Gerber** interjected.

**Ms CAMM:** I take that interjection.

*(Time expired)*