




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR BANCROFT

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ADJOURNMENT

Health System

 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (6.08 pm): It is a pleasure to be one of the people standing to speak to finish off the week in the Queensland parliament. Often at this stage we reflect on what we have learnt during the week. What we have learnt this week is that the LNP has an unhealthy fixation on health itself. For three weeks they have spent each question time literally chasing ambulances. Federal budget, COVID-19 pandemic—not an issue; they have their political yellow brick road that they are following. Besides this LNP strategy and tactic being somewhat offensive, it is perplexing and amazing because the public are not going to listen to them about health and hospitals. They remember what happened during the Campbell Newman era. It was not just staff cutting—4,400 people from Queensland Health, including 1,800 nurses—but supplies were also reduced.

I refer to small businesses in my area. An owner of a linen supply business lost his contract with Queensland Health and moved to New South Wales. The contract of another local business that provided supplies to premature baby wards was cut and that business suffered. From talking to a nurse I learned that even saline products were rationed during this time.

The major problem with this strategy is that the messenger has no credibility. When members opposite talk about Queensland Health, the only thing Queenslanders hear is 'Campbell Newman'. When members opposite keep talking about health, they keep talking to Queenslanders about Campbell Newman. This fixation is also pretty much in the Newman mode. They have tunnel vision and they cannot tolerate any diversion or naysayers.

This week we have seen what the LNP will be like under the Campbell Newman protégé: a one-track mind with no deviation. No matter how many people say, 'Maybe this is not a good idea,' they will keep going down that road. Over the next couple of years, I will be interested to see how this all ends.

Ms McMillan: The demise of the LNP.

Mr WHITING: I take that interjection. A few of us are thinking that perhaps this will not go well. I encourage members opposite to keep going down this political yellow brick road.