



Speech By  
**Jason Hunt**


**MEMBER FOR CALOUNDRA**

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Record of Proceedings, 16 June 2021

**MOTION**

**Health System**

 **Mr HUNT** (Caloundra—ALP) (5.48 pm): I rise to speak in support of the amended motion. In my community we recently had to deal with the shock of having two positive COVID cases. Our health system responded brilliantly. Our fever clinics extended their hours and tested thousands of people. Our Queensland Health staff stood up a new vaccination hub in a matter of days that continues to vaccinate thousands.

I am so grateful to Queensland Health staff and I am disappointed that the LNP continues to attack the health system composed of such amazing and hardworking health workers. We were promised a new kind of politics, but the LNP has collapsed back into its default setting and even brought Campbell Newman back into the fold, and that is a sure sign of things to come. Unfortunately for those opposite, Queenslanders have not forgotten the damage that they inflicted on the health system when they were last in government. They have not forgotten the workers who were sacked, the services that were cut, the programs that were slashed and the facilities that were closed.

They have not forgotten the sight of nurses marching on the parliament to protest against hundreds of their profession being sacked. They have not forgotten how the Newman government went to war with our doctors. They have not forgotten the community health groups that lost their funding. They have not forgotten the decision to close the Barrett Centre despite the fact that the expert advice urged them not to.

**Mr Bleijie** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Order! Pause the clock. Member for Kawana, you are on a warning.

**Mr HUNT:** The contributions of the LNP members in this debate show that their default view is that our public health system is fundamentally flawed. They attack the quality of the services provided and scour the health budget looking for more strong choices to make so that they can cut more staff and sell more services. Every government around the country is aware of the pressures that increasing demand is placing on our health system. The opposition, however, has chosen to ignore this reality. Instead of contributing sensibly to the discussions around the solution, those opposite take the low road of political opportunism. What a contrast that presents to the Palaszczuk government whose investment in the health system in this budget is over \$7.2 billion higher than the allocation in the final LNP budget just seven years ago. I welcome the record \$1.364 billion going to the Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service this year: a whopping 96.2 per cent more than our region received under the final budget of the Newman government.

This budget also includes \$105 million for our satellite hospitals program, which are on track to deliver health facilities closer to where Queenslanders live in 2023. This budget also delivers an additional 2,327 staff to our health system, another step along the road to delivering our 9,475 additional nurses, doctors and allied health professionals and paramedics to the front line over the forward

estimates. If the LNP wanted to make a positive contribution to the health debate they would join us, the AMA, radiologists, the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons, the hospital and health services, the private health insurance industry and all the hospitals, public and private, and call on the Commonwealth government to reverse its decision to ratchet up the out-of-pocket costs of hundreds of surgeries, but all we get is silence. If the LNP is really interested in dealing with the challenges presented by the rising demand for health services then they would stand up for Queensland, stand up to Canberra and directly oppose the Commonwealth's attack on Medicare which will only add more pressure to our health system, a fact that those opposite have continually ignored and remained silent on.