




Speech By
Kim Richards

MEMBER FOR REDLANDS

Record of Proceedings, 16 November 2021

MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Redlands Electorate, Hospital and Health Services

 **Ms RICHARDS** (Redlands—ALP) (2.31 pm): There is always so much going on in the Redlands, and it was a privilege last week to shout our doctors, nurses and hospital staff at the Redlands a coffee with my good friend the member for Capalaba. At the very same time we were there shouting and thanking all of our hardworking staff, those on the other side were out there knocking our hospital and health services.

I want to talk about what we have done and be very clear about that, and then I want to give those on the other side a bit of a history lesson on what they did and what their track record looks like. We have employed more doctors, more nurses and more paramedics. I thank the health minister for her recent announcement of a record investment in paramedics, with 11 new paramedics set to service our Southern Moreton Bay Islands. We also have a new Kitty Kat ambulance ferry on the drawing board.

Since being elected, I have had the opportunity of seeing our emergency department expanded—a promise taken to the 2017 election—and world-class birthing options being offered to mums in the Redlands so they now no longer need to travel to the Gold Coast to choose to have a water birth. The suites are really beautiful. We have completed a master plan and preliminary business case study for the full expansion of a hospital that pulls out two stages. That is in addition to our \$50 million hospital car park that unlocks the ability to deliver the \$62 million stage 1. This includes about 50 new beds and, importantly, an intensive care unit to service our Redlands community. There is also our \$40 million Redlands satellite hospital that is set on a 1.4-hectare parcel of land. We have completed the land negotiations with Redland City Council at Meissner Street. The satellite hospital will ease pressure on the Redland Hospital and will bring services closer to locals, particularly residents of our Southern Moreton Bay Islands.

Last week, they used the phrase that they will shine a spotlight on health. I think the Leader of the Opposition said that he would bring some sunlight to the conversation. Let me bring some sunlight to the LNP track record. While the Leader of the Opposition sat around that cabinet table with the Newman government, they sacked nurses, they sacked doctors and they closed the Wynnum Hospital with no regard for the impact that would have on the Redland Hospital. They had no regard whatsoever, not an iota of concern. They closed the Moreton Bay Nursing Care Unit, with 84 residents being dislocated, and let me talk about the job losses there. The member for Lytton knows all too well the impact that had on our community.

Last week, when the Leader of the Opposition talked about health services saying that he will keep fighting for change, we all know what change looks like to the LNP. When he said that he will provide better resourcing, we all know what that looks like for the LNP. When he said that he will help people get a bed, we all know what that looks like for the LNP. When he talks about driving cultural change, well, on this side of the House we all know what that looks for the LNP. Their track record is everything, and you cannot rewrite the history of the LNP when it comes to health services in our Redlands community.

Leader of the Opposition, if you really wanted to help, if you were genuine about helping, you would pick up the phone to the Prime Minister and you would ask him to fix the mess that is in aged care. I will talk about the Macleay ward at the Redland Hospital, where nine beds were converted into a locked dementia care facility. You tell me what is wrong with that.

Mr LANGBROEK: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I ask you to rule about speaking directly to members.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Member for Redlands, I ask you to direct all of your comments through the chair and use the correct and appropriate parliamentary titles.

Ms RICHARDS: Mr Deputy Speaker, through you, I request that the member for Broadwater pick up the phone to the Prime Minister and ask him to fix the mess that is in aged care which is impacting on the health services of Redland Hospital. I ask him to pick up the phone and call the Prime Minister and talk about the GPs and the mess there is with getting access to a GP. I was provided with a letter of support from one of our local GP clinics. They have made special application to the DPA to get more GPs out servicing. When the community cannot access GPs, that is putting pressure on our public hospital system. Quite frankly, to say that there is a health crisis and not be genuine about trying to get to the causes of that is disingenuous to everybody.

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Ms RICHARDS: I think I just rattled off quite a long list of what the Palaszczuk government is doing to deliver better health services for our Redlands community. That was a very long list, and I do not recall the LNP coming to the election with any sort of promises. If you are genuine about helping, I ask you to pick up the phone to the Prime Minister, support our local GPs and support our ageing community. It is only the Palaszczuk government that will support healthcare services in the Redlands.