




Speech By
Rob Molhoek

MEMBER FOR SOUTHPORT

Record of Proceedings, 1 December 2021

MOTION

Bundaberg, Health Services

 **Mr MOLHOEK** (Southport—LNP) (5.43 pm): What a disappointing presentation from the blow-in member for Bundaberg. He is not even here for the rest of the debate.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr MOLHOEK: I withdraw that comment.

Ms GRACE: I rise to a point of order, Mr Deputy Speaker. There are protocols in this place.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: While I am taking the point of order, could you resume your seat, member. You are unable to refer to the absence of members. I ask you to withdraw.

Mr MOLHOEK: I withdraw. What we have had presented to us today in the amendment to the motion is another classic Palaszczuk government promise. It is appropriate that they would do that today because we are approaching Christmas. Like so many of their promises, it is just another big shiny bauble. It looks great on the outside but has absolutely nothing on the inside. That is what the promise is with regard to the Bundaberg Hospital. It was an election stunt. During the election campaign we heard the member for Bundaberg talk about the delivery of a new hospital for Bundaberg, but where is it? Where are the plans?

One of things that greatly concerns me about the delivery of health services in this state is the propensity of this government to ignore the recommendations of the Queensland Audit Office and to ignore the pleas of the people of Queensland who are crying out for better health services in every part of the state. We saw several months ago a report from the Queensland Audit Office that basically said that there needed to be greater attention paid to the planning for sustainable health services across the state. In that report it referred to the need for better workforce planning. It referred to the complete and utter lack of strategic planning by Queensland Health.

Today those on the other side of the House have the audacity to say, 'Trust us. Things are under control. It is all going to be okay.' We still have not seen the concrete plans for this new service in Bundaberg. The member for Burnett is absolutely right to move this motion in the House tonight and raise legitimate concerns about the Labor government's failure to provide essential services in Bundaberg.

Right across the state health workers are crying out for greater support from this government. I note that the member for Mudgeeraba acknowledged the great work of health workers across the state. I have met many of them. I have visited 12 of our health services this year. I have met some wonderful people—amazing doctors, amazing nurses, amazing specialists and incredible people in our allied health services—who have been let down by this Labor government which has not provided the support, assistance and resources that our Queensland hospitals so desperately deserve. Not only that, in recent days we have heard about the \$400 million cut to health services across the state.

An opposition member: Efficiency cuts.

Mr MOLHOEK: Yes. They are called efficiency dividends. I thank God for our doctors and nurses on the front line. They are shouldering the burden of this shabby Labor government's shortcomings. Frankly, apart from dressing the wounds of those who come to our hospitals every day, our frontline workers are being called on every day to put more and more bandaids on the failing health system and make up for the shortcomings of this lazy Labor government.

The member for Thuringowa rolled out the same old cliché that it is unprecedented demand. We have unprecedented demand across the state and every hospital is struggling, but we do not have any COVID cases here. I do not know about others, but I am very concerned about how Queensland is going to cope should it come. How are we going to cope when the government has failed to plan? How are we going to cope when we do not have the workforce in place to meet the demands of the ailing health system across the state? How are we going to cope when we have bed shortages in almost every hospital across the state?

We hear stories of some of our hospitals—hospitals like the Gold Coast University Hospital and the Robina Hospital—that are operating at double their built capacity through their emergency departments and other departments. What plans are there for a new hospital on the Gold Coast? None. There may be a super GP clinic, or whatever one wants to call it, up at Coomera and maybe something at Varsity Lakes, but what the City of the Gold Coast needs is another hospital somewhere up in the north around Coomera—not some sort of bandaid that the government wants to apply, but a hospital that Queenslanders and Gold Coasters deserve.