




Speech By
Hon. Yvette D'Ath

MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE

Record of Proceedings, 16 June 2021

MOTION

Health System

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (5.05 pm): I move—

That all words after 'spoken' are omitted and the following inserted:

'about the health system, including Patricia, Donald, Jan, Stephen, Trevor, Ron, Sue, Rob, Annette and Anthony; and

2. notes the Palaszczuk government's continued investment in the health system and the record 2021-22 health budget.'

Mr Bleijie: Disregard their stories.

Mrs D'ATH: I will take that interjection. I have just mentioned each and every one of those individuals. I am not disregarding their stories; I am shining a light on what the opposition is doing. We just heard the member for Mudgeeraba, the shadow minister for health, talk about the community being let down. They are being let down by the LNP, which has politicised the global health pandemic from day one. You cannot imagine the situation we would be in if they had been in government. They would have opened the borders time and time again. They would have allowed this infection in and the risk of 12,000 people dying would have been seen under that lot because—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Before I call the health minister to continue, the mover of the original motion was heard with relative respect and quiet. I would expect that those on this side will extend the same courtesy to the person replying to the motion or I will start warning people.

Mrs D'ATH: The shadow minister talked about once-in-a-generation statistics; how about a once-in-a-century global health pandemic! Those opposite continue to ignore the fact that this has happened. It was the Prime Minister of this country and the Leader of the Opposition who talked about hiding under the doona. What they did not tell the people of Australia is that it is the LNP who is hiding under the doona and ignoring the fact that we have this pressure that has been acknowledged not only by Queensland but right across this country by every single jurisdiction no matter what their politics are.

All different political persuasions across this country have acknowledged the disruption to their health systems. It is well above normal year-on-year growth and pressure and it has been acknowledged by every single jurisdiction. They should pick up the phone to their New South Wales mates and ask them what they are seeing. No, they want to politicise this and tell the people of Queensland, 'This is just a Queensland problem. I don't know what's going on. It's all the government's fault.' Let's ignore that every state and territory is feeling these pressures. Let's ignore the World Health Organization, which says that out of 152 countries, 92 per cent—

Mr Millar: This is Queensland! You're in charge of Queensland Health!

Mrs D'ATH: This is Queensland, but you cannot put your head in the sand and ignore what is happening around the globe.

Mr Millar: Stopping blaming that!

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Pause the clock. Member for Gregory, you are warned.

Mrs D'ATH: I have to take that interjection. Stop blaming the health pandemic! Let's stop blaming the virus that is killing millions of people around the world. That is an appalling statement to make, but it shows what the LNP is all about.

Opposition members interjected.

Mrs D'ATH: It is not ignorance. It is not being oblivious to the facts, although I do question some. The LNP is completely ignoring what is going on. After five minutes of listening to the shadow health minister there was not one idea from them. Not one idea; just whingeing. There was not one idea what they would do differently to deal with the global health pandemic.

Our health system is stretched because it is dealing with testing every day, hotel quarantine, managing positive cases in our hospital system and now vaccinating the entire state so we can open up our economy—but, no, it is business as usual according to those on the opposite side. For them, there is nothing different in 2020 and 2021, nothing has happened, there is nothing to see. This is extraordinary—from the party that cut the jobs of 5,000 health workers and picked fights with the doctors. They actually wore as a badge of honour the cuts that they made in their budgets and said that it had to be done: 'We're very proud of the budgets that we have put in place.' It was the Leader of the Opposition who said it was a bloated bureaucracy and attacked our Chief Health Officer and has never apologised for calling the Chief Health Officer of this state a punch-drunk bureaucrat.

That is what the LNP are about. They stand for nothing. They play cheap politics. They have done it with health from day one. For the last 18 months their behaviour has been appalling. When the rest of the country was coming together on all sides of politics, it was the LNP in Queensland which embarrassed themselves. They should be ashamed of themselves.

(Time expired)