




Speech By
Hon. Yvette D'Ath

MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE

Record of Proceedings, 1 December 2021

MOTION

Bundaberg, Health Services

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (5.04 pm): The member is right in one respect: the public will not be fooled and it sees this motion for what it is, and it is the opposition smarting over the fact that it lost the seat of Bundaberg and it is still stewing over it and its attempt at getting it back is smearing the good name of the member who was elected by the people of Bundaberg. I move—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Pause the clock. An amendment is being moved and I am attempting to hear it. I would appreciate it if that could be done in silence.

Mrs D'ATH: I move the following amendment—

That all words after 'notes' be omitted and the following inserted:

1. the increase in demand for health services in the Bundaberg and Wide Bay region;
2. that all Queensland hospitals, including the Bundaberg Hospital, are experiencing an increase in emergency department presentations due to a number of reasons, including GP access;
3. the Palaszczuk government's commitment for a new hospital in Bundaberg; and

endorses the Palaszczuk government's continuing record investment in the health system in Queensland, including in the Bundaberg region.'

We are very proud of—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Mudgeeraba, I asked to hear the amendment in silence. You are warned.

Mrs D'ATH: We are very proud of our investment in the Bundaberg region and across this great state with our record budget of over \$22.2 billion—a record that the opposition leader has actually had to acknowledge despite his stunts in the last few days trying to claim cuts in the health system. It is the Palaszczuk government that will continue to invest in our health system. It is the Palaszczuk government that is continuing to invest in the Wide Bay region and which has committed to building the Bundaberg Hospital. There is no reneging on the Bundaberg Hospital. It will be built. It will be built by a Labor government.

What the people of Bundaberg should be concerned about is if there was a change of government I am sure they could say goodbye to that hospital, because the commitments that those opposite made at the last election were not to match our investment in health workers and the increase in health workers and it was not to match our funding commitments or our capital infrastructure commitments. It is only Labor governments that invest in health, and we do have an incredible universal health system in this country and this state, yet there are those who continually talk it down. Yes, we are under extreme

pressure, as is every other hospital in the nation and globally in terms of the pressures that we are seeing, but to simply say that we have a health system that is not delivering for the people of Queensland is attacking the health workers, no matter what the member tries to claim. Every time they talk about surgeries, elective surgery and everything else, they are criticising the hardworking health workers who step up each and every day to deliver for the people of Queensland and who have worked tirelessly over the last two years to prepare for COVID and who will be the ones who are looking after the COVID patients when the virus comes, and we are proud of what—