




Speech By
Ali King

MEMBER FOR PUMICESTONE

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PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENT

Bribie Island, Health Services

 **Ms KING** (Pumicestone—ALP) (2.03 pm): Our Palaszczuk Labor government is leading a health building bonanza for Pumicestone. Today I can announce that work has started on our Bribie Island satellite hospital. For the first time, our Bribie community will have hospital care delivered by hospital doctors and nurses in the heart of our community. Our \$450 million project to double the size of Caboolture Hospital and add a whole range of new services is on track to finish in 2024, with the new five-storey clinical services building opening its doors to its first patients next year.

In more good news, federal health minister Mark Butler recently contacted me to say that he has permanently restored Pumicestone's GP priority status after the LNP Morrison government cut it. Thank you to Dr Steve Kearney for his advocacy and to Prime Minister Anthony Albanese for coming to Pumicestone to hear from locals for himself. Mostly thank you to the 1,100 locals who campaigned with me to put our local GP crisis on the national agenda. It is already getting easier in Pumicestone for people to see a GP. We have more new clinics opening and new doctors coming on board. I could not be prouder and more pleased.

I care deeply about health care. Every single day I am out in our community working hard for more and better health services. I fought to fix our GP crisis, I am fighting unfair billing practices from our local private pathology in relation to PCR tests and, starting today, I can also announce that I got concession card holders on Bribie access to free RAT tests closer to home.

When the LNP and the Leader of the Opposition blow into our community, they are not there for our community members; they are there for themselves. You can tell by the insincere smile on his face and the predatory gleam in his eyes. The LNP and the Leader of the Opposition only come to our community to exploit our people, bag our hospitals and bash our health workers. They do not come with solutions; they come to score cheap political points.

We know what the LNP Leader of the Opposition's so-called health solutions are because he showed us and he told us. The LNP Leader of the Opposition showed us his solutions when he sacked 732 nurses from our local health area in addition to thousands more health workers. He told us again just the other day when he admitted on radio that he will cut services again if Queenslanders ever give him the chance.

Queenslanders cannot trust the LNP when it comes to health care. Only Labor will build our hospitals, back our health workers and invest in more and better health care, including in my community of Pumicestone.