




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR GLASS HOUSE

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MOTION

Satellite Hospitals

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (7.22 pm): I, too, rise to support the motion moved by my good friend and the member for Mudgeeraba and call out these sham fake hospitals—something which I actually agree with the member for Pumicestone on for a change. I also agree with the member for Pumicestone when she says that the health system here in Queensland is under pressure, and guess what? The only people that the Labor Party has to blame is its own government! It is the reason the health system is under pressure. Why did the LNP not build a hospital in Caboolture, member for Pumicestone? Because there is already one there, and we will come back to that in a moment. As for her constituents having to travel hours for renal dialysis, again she only has herself and her government to blame. Those services could and would and should have already been provided in Caboolture or Morayfield.

Let me return to this idea of a satellite hospital. The real issue here is the term 'hospital', but I want to spend a bit of time talking about the term 'satellite'. The term 'satellite' implies that something is in orbit, and in this instance one would imagine that it would orbit around the main hospital—that is, that it is on the outer edge of a hospital's catchment. To that end, maybe the member for Pumicestone does have a point that the proposed location on Bribie Island might be considered a 'satellite', but the Caboolture site? The Caboolture site is in Rowe Street, Caboolture. I am pretty good on geography, but I checked it on Google Maps: it is literally one kilometre from the existing Caboolture Hospital—one kilometre! You can literally walk there in what—10 to 15 minutes, far faster than you can get an ambulance these days! It is one kilometre from the main Caboolture Hospital in McKean Street. It is a one-minute drive! If this was a real satellite, it would not have even made it out of the earth's orbit. It would not have cleared Mount Kosciuszko. In fact, it would have barely made it over Mount Beerwah! If you were Elon Musk and you had paid this Labor government to launch this satellite, you would be wanting your money back. It is not a real satellite at all.

Let us now move to the hospital aspect. No Moreton Bay resident is going to visit this sham hospital when the real one is only a kilometre down the road. This sham hospital has no overnight beds. It is not open 24 hours. There is no emergency department. There is no operating theatre. If there is a parent in Elimbah who has taken their kid to the skate park and they come a cropper and bust an arm, do not go to the Caboolture satellite hospital. If your mother in Wamuran has an anaphylactic reaction, do not take her to the Caboolture satellite hospital. If you live in Delaneys Creek and your baby has an ear infection at 1 am, do not bother taking them to the Caboolture satellite hospital because it is not a hospital! If it were not so serious, you would actually remind yourself of that epic *Yes Minister* episode, 'The Compassionate Society', and the infamous St Edwards hospital. These statements from that episode are eerily familiar—

We've founded the DHSS—

insert 'Queensland Health' here—

and that it takes time to get things going.

Well, if you have a Labor government, it not only takes time; it takes more time and more money! It continues—

First of all, you have to sort out the smooth running of the hospital. Having patients around would be no help at all! They'd just be in the way!

At least St Edwards had one thing the Caboolture satellite hospital will not, and that is beds! So do not call it a hospital. Call it a medical facility or call it a GP clinic, but quit misleading the people of Caboolture by calling it a satellite hospital because it is neither satellite nor a hospital.

The funding being spent on this sham could have been better spent on improving service delivery at the Caboolture Hospital itself. We understand that it is \$280 million for seven facilities, so let us say that is \$40 million per facility. Instead of building the Caboolture facility in Rowe Street, just one kilometre down the road from the Caboolture Hospital, the government could have spent that money on purchasing another 160 ambulances, could have spent it on 385 new graduate nurses, could have spent it on 390 new paramedics, 22 ICU beds or 350 first-year doctors, and if you want to move away from health altogether go and hire another 360 police officers or another 380 teachers. Stop calling it a hospital. Call it a medical facility or call it a GP clinic, but stop misleading the people of Caboolture and the people of Moreton Bay. It is not a satellite hospital.