




Speech By
Brittany Lauga

MEMBER FOR KEPPEL

Record of Proceedings, 25 May 2022

MOTION

Central Queensland, Health Services

 **Ms LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (5.47 pm): I rise this evening to speak in support of the government's amended motion and against the opposition's motion that they have moved this evening which very clearly states that this is a debate about the Central Queensland Hospital and Health Service. The member for Burnett talks about Bundaberg and Childers—and Redlands—when the Central Queensland Hospital and Health Service is very clearly a completely different hospital and health service. Thank goodness for federal Labor and our federal Labor candidate Matt Burnett in Flynn for delivering \$150,000 to refurbish Impact Community Services in the member for Burnett's electorate to attract GPs and allied health services to the Discovery Coast. Federal Labor is delivering more GPs for the member for Burnett's community. What has he done in the last 10 years to deliver more health services?

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Gladstone, you are on a warning. Member for Kawana, you are also on a warning.

Ms LAUGA: In the past 10 years the member for Burnett has done nothing to deliver more GPs and health services to his community. I am proud that federal Labor will deliver on its \$150,000 commitment for more GPs at Agnes Water in the electorate of the member for Burnett. Why does the LNP want to constantly talk down our Central Queensland Hospital and Health Service, particularly during a global pandemic—a time when our health workers are working so incredibly hard to keep our community as healthy as possible?

An honourable member interjected.

Ms LAUGA: I will get onto Michelle Landry shortly. Those men and women—doctors, nurses, allied health professionals, public health officers, pathology laboratory staff, wardies, cleaners, cooks—have been working so hard to keep our communities safe and those opposite have done nothing but talk down our Central Queensland Hospital and Health Service. Actually, they did do something: they cut and they sacked. When they were in government they cut millions of dollars of funding from our Central Queensland Hospital and Health Service and they sacked 197 health workers. One hundred and ninety-seven doctors, nurses and healthcare workers were sacked from Central Queensland hospitals. Those healthcare workers will never forget what Campbell Newman, the LNP government and those opposite did to them. The member for Nanango came in here and said that the LNP fixed the health system when in government. I do not know who she thought they were. It is laughable! They did not fix anything. They cut and they sacked. It was like Godzilla coming through the city and tearing it apart. That is exactly what they did to our health system. That is not 'fixing'.

Only Labor builds up our health and hospital services. I am proud that the Palaszczuk government is delivering a record \$691 million budget for the Central Queensland Hospital and Health Service, which is an increase of 48 per cent compared to when the LNP was in power. When we came back to government we had to undo 'Can-do'. Not only have we restored those healthcare worker numbers; we have raised them with 119 doctors, 498 nurses and 153 allied health staff.

It was the federal Labor government, together with the state Labor government, that built the cancer care ward at the Rockhampton Hospital. Every year over 500 people can now access cancer treatment in Rockhampton, close to their family and home, thanks to a \$140 million commitment made by the federal Labor government in 2011. It was the state Labor government that contributed a further \$17 million towards the helipad and the state-of-the-art new Intensive Care Unit. It was the state Labor government that contributed \$21 million towards the new Rockhampton Hospital car park. Michelle Landry likes to take credit for that but the federal LNP contributed less than 25 per cent of the total project cost. It was the state Labor government that built the \$14.2 million 42-bed detoxification and rehabilitation centre, which the LNP and One Nation campaigned against and tried to stop.

At the 2019 federal election it was federal Labor that committed to funding to refurbish the mental health unit, but the LNP and Michelle Landry did not match that commitment so now state Labor has stepped up with the funding. I am proud that we are delivering on that commitment. It is the state Labor government that is building the \$18.2 million cardiac hybrid theatre. We have funded the Rockhampton Hospital coronary care unit expansion. We have provided for more beds in Central Queensland. There are over 180 additional beds across Central Queensland since we came to government. In Central Queensland 46 hospitals beds are taken up by long-stay patients who need and want to get into aged care or disability care, but because of the Morrison government's failures they have nowhere else to go. Those opposite do not say anything about that, though.

It is this side of the chamber that delivers more nurses and more doctors. I am proud that it this side that is delivering improvements to our health services in Central Queensland.