



Speech By  
**Bryson Head**


**MEMBER FOR CALLIDE**

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Record of Proceedings, 9 November 2022

**MOTION**

**Minister for Health and Ambulance Services**

 **Mr HEAD** (Callide—LNP) (5.32 pm): I rise to support the motion as moved by the member for Mudgeeraba. Let's talk about some facts because we all know that is what the government absolutely hates hearing about. They do not want to debate our private member's motion as it stands because they do not like the truth.

Callide is an electorate with 14 hospitals. At face value you could be led to believe that my electorate is well serviced. The reality is that hospitals in Callide are becoming little more than bandaid stations. A complete lack of interest from the Minister for Health with regard to services in rural and regional Queensland means that communities are regularly without doctors at our public hospitals.

The community of Monto in the North Burnett is staring down the barrel of having no doctor come Christmas. This hospital services an area of over 2,000 people. Moura had many weeks without a doctor just this year. This is a town that has a population of 2,000 with many more in its surrounds. It has a major coalmine nearby as well as a nitrate plant. The fact that a community that provides so much wealth for our state was without a doctor for so long is nothing short of a disgrace.

Gayndah, Eidsvold, Mundubbera, Miles and Wandoan are just some of the communities that are being failed by the Palaszczuk government. These towns have inadequate or intermittent health services, which is the direct result of failed planning by this health minister.

The minister refused to launch a royal commission into the forensic labs for months. She said the member for Broadwater and the LNP team were playing pure politics. We know who was really playing politics; she was. She was playing politics while ducking and weaving from the failures in Queensland's DNA labs as rapists and murderers potentially walked free.

The list of failures of this minister runs for miles. If we broke the list down patient by patient it would probably run the length of the Bruce Highway. If we were to write this list along the Bruce Highway, it would be fitting to make sure the names lined up. Little Matilda, born only last month, could have her name etched in the bitumen right where she was born. Matilda, daughter of Greg and Chloe, was born in the early hours one morning only a month ago. She, along with baby Beatrix from Chinchilla, have seven letters on their birth certificate that no baby should ever have.

**Ms Leahy:** Highway.

**Mr HEAD:** They have 'highway' stamped on their birth certificate thanks to the failures of the health minister. For those opposite who are falling in behind to support this failure of a minister, I table a copy of Matilda's birth certificate.

*Tabled paper:* Redacted birth certificate [1872](#).

I dare them to read it before they get up again and try to claim they have confidence in this minister. Wait, they are not even doing that with their own amendment because they cannot bring themselves to do it. Speaking of ministers who should resign—

**Ms FARMER:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I ask for your ruling on a member tabling a child's birth certificate, please.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Yes, and I am going to sight the document. It will not be tabled until I have sighted the document and I will discuss this with the Clerk.

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Thank you, members to my right.

**Mr Crisafulli** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I am giving a ruling, Leader of the Opposition. Member, I will have to look at that document to see not only if it has been redacted but if it is possible to be tabled and I will make a call on that. You have one minute and 53 seconds to continue your contribution.

**Mr HEAD:** Speaking of ministers who should—

**Mr BROWN:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I believe also the contribution by the member for Callide has specifically identified the child already along with the tabled document, so I would ask that both be taken into consideration.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I will take your point of order and give consideration to this. Member, you have one minute and 50 seconds remaining.

**Mr HEAD:** Speaking of ministers who should resign, Matilda just so happens to be a constituent of the member for Gladstone.

**Ms Enoch** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The member for Algester will cease her interjections.

**Mr HEAD:** The member for Gladstone still refuses to set a date for when he will resign after making the claim to his community that he will do just that if maternity services do not come back online. The member for Gladstone can show his community that he cares about health services in his community by joining us on this side of the chamber come the vote on this very motion. If he cannot do that, he needs to stay true to his claim and pack his bags. His electorate is without full maternity services as is the electorate of Callide. That is right, there are 14 hospitals and yet there is not one maternity ward in my whole electorate, an electorate bigger than Tasmania.

What does this have to do with other surrounding areas? I have heard of numerous resignations from the Rockhampton Hospital thanks to the stress the bypass of Gladstone and Biloela maternity wards have placed on staff. This has happened under the watch of the health minister while the members for Rockhampton, Keppel and Gladstone sat around.

Until recently the community of Theodore had a terrific maternity service. This service was closed under the watch of the Labor government and this minister has not lifted a finger to get it reinstated. Expectant mothers at Theodore now have to travel over 200 kilometres to give birth. I say to the expectant mothers down the road at Cracow: I hope your babies are happy to wait around; you are 270 kilometres from the nearest maternity ward. Chinchilla still has not had a look-in and Biloela is still on bypass. This is just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to the failures of this health minister.

Queenslanders deserve basic local health services without geographic discrimination. I will not give up the fight until the people in rural and regional Queensland have the services they deserve.