




Speech By
Hon. Cameron Dick

MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE

Record of Proceedings, 9 November 2022

MOTION

Minister for Health and Ambulance Services

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (5.05 pm):
I move the following amendment—

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

- (a) supports the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services deliver the Palaszczuk government's record investment in health care in Queensland and the government's strong Queensland Health and Hospitals Plan which supports all Queenslanders;
- (b) has no confidence in the shadow minister for health and ambulance services, the member for Mudgeeraba;
- (c) condemns the member for Mudgeeraba for her comments regarding "dud" health workers in regional Queensland;
- (d) condemns the Leader of the Opposition for not showing leadership and sacking the member for Mudgeeraba from his shadow cabinet for her disgraceful comments about Queensland health workers;
- (e) condemns the member for Mudgeeraba's membership of an organisation which actively promoted anti-vaccination sentiment during the peak of the COVID pandemic; and
- (f) condemns the Leader of the Opposition and the member for Mudgeeraba for their participation in the Newman LNP government which sacked 4,400 healthcare workers.'

I move this amendment because, simply put, the motion put by the member for Mudgeeraba is founded in bad faith and politics pure and simple, and that is coming from a member of this House who has made a speciality of bad faith politics. The member for Mudgeeraba did not serve long in the cabinet of Queensland. I am not one to praise Campbell Newman, but even Campbell Newman recognised that the member for Mudgeeraba should not be in his cabinet when he accepted her resignation. That is more than we can say for the current Leader of the Opposition. The member for Mudgeeraba not only openly supported a fake union that is associated with anti-vax sentiment; the member for Mudgeeraba is proud of it. The member for Mudgeeraba calls regional health workers duds. Even so, the Leader of the Opposition continues to put her forward as the alternative health minister for Queensland. Not even Campbell Newman would do that.

That is the thing about the current Leader of the Opposition: the Leader of the Opposition does not have any strength of character. Look at the member for Broadwater's record on the budget and the economy. The Leader of the Opposition supported the revenue bills passed by the Assembly, then he opposed them, and then the member for Broadwater in the House today demands more spending for his electorate. The Leader of the Opposition has no discipline. He has no coherent plan for Queensland. The Leader of the Opposition just makes it up as he goes along with whatever issue floats past.

Nowhere is that weakness clearer than in relation to the member for Mudgeeraba on his front bench, when not even Campbell Newman would have the member for Mudgeeraba. While the member for Mudgeeraba only had a short ministerial career, the member for Mudgeeraba was there in the cabinet for the horror 2012 Newman LNP budget and the member for Mudgeeraba supported the sacking of over 4,000 health workers, including 1,200 nurses and midwives. The member for

Mudgeeraba is—or at least was—a registered nurse, as she constantly reminds everyone. You would have thought that in that situation when she was in a position of power and influence the member for Mudgeeraba might have stood up for nurses and midwives and not denigrated and sacked them.

The member for Mudgeeraba did not. She did nothing of the sort, and as a consequence all of those nurses and midwives lost their jobs. Even though the member for Mudgeeraba left the cabinet so early after such a brief and non-illustrious career, the member for Mudgeeraba did not take the opportunity to apologise for what the member for Mudgeeraba did. The member for Mudgeeraba has never apologised for what she did to those nurses and midwives. The member for Mudgeeraba never has. The only conclusion we can draw from this—

Ms Simpson interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: The member for Maroochydore will cease her interjections.

Mr DICK:—is that what the member for Mudgeeraba once supported the member for Mudgeeraba will support again, because if you do not have the character to apologise, to recognise your failure, to apologise for the lives that you wrecked and destroyed, there is one conclusion: the member for Mudgeeraba, if she had the opportunity, would in her own words sack those ‘dud’ health workers in regional Queensland.

Ms Simpson interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: The member for Maroochydore is warned under the standing orders.

Mr DICK: This goes to the character of the member for Mudgeeraba and, very importantly, the character of the Leader of the Opposition, who stands by the member for Mudgeeraba in her shameful role as the shadow health minister in this state.

(Time expired)