



Speech By  
**Christopher Whiting**


**MEMBER FOR BANCROFT**

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## **MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST**

### **Satellite Hospitals**

 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (2.22 pm): It is always interesting to follow the speech of a true conservative. We know that conservatives always have a desire to pry into the personal lives of everyone else and they assume the right to direct the personal lives of everyone else, so I do mark that as the speech of a true conservative.

Today I rise to talk about two important milestones in the Queensland Health system under Labor. This morning we heard about the sod turning for our satellite hospitals at Redlands and Caboolture—

**Mr Bleijie** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Order! Pause the clock. That was unparliamentary. I would ask you to withdraw.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I withdraw.

**Mr WHITING:** As we also heard today, we can look forward to sod turning at Tugun and Ripley. These are the first of seven satellite hospitals we will be seeing in Queensland. They are an Australian first, a true Queensland creation, and Queensland should be very proud of them. As we know, these satellite hospitals will take pressure off our hospitals. They will perform a range of regular and day visit procedures, including: renal dialysis, chemotherapy, wound management, oncology appointments, paediatrician appointments and breast screening. These will be hugely important parts of our health system and are a very welcome development.

The other welcome development we heard about, as the health minister announced, is that 120 new paramedics will be starting this month. This is hugely important. They are part of the 535 who will start this term, and I congratulate the health minister on that as well. It is very clear that only Labor backs our frontline workers. We never talk them down. We will never undermine them for political advantage. This investment in our paramedics comes at a time when, as we have heard, we had the four busiest days ever for paramedics in the last five months. There are more ambulance visits to more Queensland homes than ever before. As we can see, it is very clear that Labor invests in our healthcare system. Labor builds our healthcare system, and that includes over 1,300 more beds since January 2015.

In this term we will see an extra 9,475 frontline workers in our health system. We invest in health. Compare that to the record of the LNP. We heard a bit more about that this morning. We always knew they sacked 4,400 workers during the Newman era, including 1,800 nurses. They closed the Barrett Centre. As the Treasurer said this morning, that represented the biggest cut in mental health in Queensland's—if not Australia's—history. It was a tragic event. Look at what happens at the federal level. Let's look at the record of the LNP at the federal level. As we heard this morning, they walked away from a fifty-fifty split in health funding. They stuck at 45 per cent. They will not go any further than that. We have also heard they will not put serious health funding on the agenda of National Cabinet. It is a disgrace. If we talk about what they have done in aged care, that just compounds their record.

I want to pay my respects to those aged-care workers who have taken the decision to go out on strike today in support of better pay, and I include my very dear friend Caiden Neate, who was at the rally today. These people are taking action to get better wages. The federal government has gone silent about the recommendations of the Productivity Commission on how to improve the aged-care system. This is at a time when we know there are hundreds of Queenslanders in public hospital beds waiting on federally funded aged-care packages, and as we heard this morning there are over 400 Queenslanders in hospital due to COVID. What we have seen is that those federal government actions are late. Let's use another Spanish term: Ellos son muy flojos. They are very lazy. They are a disgrace. If you compare what they have done, they are nowhere near us.