




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR NANANGO

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PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENT

International Nurses Day; Kingaroy Hospital

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (2.55 pm): Today on International Nurses Day I want to give a massive shout-out to all hardworking nurses across the state—not just my daughter Lucy, a graduate nurse in Barcaldine, but all of the nurses. I also want to give a little bit of a story and a bit of a history lesson in relation to the health services in my patch, particularly Kingaroy. It is important that we talk about the history that has led to the brand new hospital in Kingaroy.

In 2012 when I first became the member it was the most important issue for locals. We needed that new building. We know that for a long time consecutive Labor governments under the Bligh years completely ignored regional health, and it has gotten no better under the Palaszczuk government either. In 2010 the Kingaroy Hospital was identified as one of 12 ageing rural and regional hospitals in need of repair. It was not until the then health minister, Lawrence Springborg, put both Kingaroy and Roma on that list and, thanks to an LNP government, we ended up with those hospitals.

In the lead-up to the new Kingaroy Hospital I repeatedly asked questions about the Kingaroy Hospital, and members would know the number of questions that have been asked by me on notice and without notice about the working conditions at Kingaroy. I have also asked questions about the blowout in that it went from \$62 million to \$92.5 million with still no more services and not many more beds, but the icing on the cake was that after so much anticipation when stage 1 finally opened in late 2020 the building flooded after just 37 millimetres of rain. Goodness knows it probably flooded again last night!

That flooding damaged the CT scanner and closed down 55 per cent of the beds for months and months, and it did not just happen once; it has flooded three times. The brand new building has flooded three times and still the nurses, the doctors and all of the admin staff do not have any more services to provide to the patients. Yes, we have the new building. Yes, we have it and we are very thankful for it. However, I would say this: we are not thankful for the fact that we have no more services. I will continue to fight for more palliative care—sorry, any palliative care in that hospital. I will continue to fight for mental health services. I will continue to fight for more and better maternity services, because that is what my community is screaming out for. I will continue to fight on behalf of the nurses who want more support from this incompetent government.