



Speech By  
**Deb Frecklington**


**MEMBER FOR NANANGO**

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Record of Proceedings, 25 May 2022

**MOTION**

**Central Queensland, Health Services**

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (5.53 pm): If the government will not admit that there is a problem, how are they planning to fix it? There is a health crisis right now in Queensland. There is a health crisis in Central Queensland. There is a health crisis in Wide Bay. There is a health crisis in Redlands. There is a health crisis in Brisbane. There is a health crisis in North Queensland. Because we do not have time to talk about all the crises, tonight we are discussing Central Queensland.

Why are we talking about Central Queensland? It is because we know that this House will be better once Bryson Head, the LNP candidate for Callide, gets in here because then we will have a strong voice and an advocate for that region. The people of Chinchilla, the people of Theodore, the people of Biloela and the people of Moura want a representative who speaks out for them, just like they had with the former LNP member.

What do we see from those opposite who represent the seats of Rockhampton, Keppel and, of course, Gladstone? The member for Gladstone has completely forgotten that he is meant to be governing for the whole region and not just the little area that he represents. Whether they live in Biloela, Moura, Theodore, Banana or any of those great places, the people of Central Queensland deserve a health system. If a woman needs to go to hospital to give birth, there should be a maternity centre where she lives. I am talking about the Chinchilla maternity centre, which those opposite closed. Then what did they do? There was not one COVID patient but they turned it into a COVID ward! Beatrix will forever be known as the poor little child who was born next to the Warrego Highway. Every time a form states where she was born, it will not say Chinchilla, Dalby or Tara because under these jokers all of those maternity centres were closed down.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Pause the clock. That was unparliamentary language and I ask you to withdraw it.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** I withdraw. When we started this debate, I had heard the member for Gladstone say that the Leader of the Opposition and the hardworking opposition health minister were just talking to their LNP mates. The member for Gladstone should tell that to the 2,000 patients in his area who are waiting for elective surgery. He should tell that to those people. He should tell it to the paramedics. In Central Queensland, paramedics have spent 6,000 hours waiting with their sick and dying patients for hospitals to let them in. Regional people deserve better. Regional people deserve a health system that is fixed. They deserve a government that admits they have a problem.

The health minister might have sent out speaking notes to the assistant health minister and all of the government backbenchers who have spoken today. They have all quoted the figures, but how has that helped? How has that helped the people who are sick, those who are dying and those who are waiting for specialist care? How has that helped those 2,000 people who are waiting for specialist care? How has it helped the kids who play sport on the weekends but cannot get a scan if they break a bone? They are told to turn up on a Tuesday for treatment. How does that help?

I absolutely plead with the health minister to admit that they have a problem. Anna Bligh stood up and said that the health system was a basket case. That is why I entered this place and it is why the member for Gregory entered this parliament. Guess what? The health system is worse than it was under Anna Bligh and that is saying something! I urge the people of Callide to vote for Bryson Head and get another regional voice in this House.

*(Time expired)*