



Speech By  
**Julianne Gilbert**


**MEMBER FOR MACKAY**

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Record of Proceedings, 25 May 2022

**MOTION**

**Central Queensland, Health Services**

 **Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (5.36 pm): Today's motion from the LNP provides yet another reminder of how disconnected they are from reality. As the health minister has repeatedly advised the House, the COVID pandemic is placing extraordinary pressure on health systems around the country and around the world. Queensland is not immune to the pandemic. Currently there are 1,681 Queenslanders suffering from COVID and receiving treatment in hospitals or care at home. Fifty-seven of these are under the care of the Central Queensland HHS. The LNP plough on regardless, as though COVID does not exist. They are recklessly attacking our health system and those who work in it.

I have had lots of interactions with health workers. They tell me that they are sick and tired of the member for Mudgeeraba turning up with the member for Broadwater and having a nice little chat with them, pretending that they are there to be supportive. Then they go out the front of the health centre or the hospital and stab them in the back. They are sick and tired of being ripped to bits by those opposite.

The member for Whitsunday has also been very vocal on this issue. I remind her that most of the people contacting my office live in the Northern Beaches of Mackay, in the Whitsunday electorate. They are sick and tired of the behaviour of those opposite, continually attacking healthcare workers. It is just disgraceful.

**Mr Harper:** Why don't you care about healthcare workers?

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Order, member for Thuringowa.

**Mrs GILBERT:** I will tell you why they do not care about health care workers. We just go by their past actions and their behaviour. When those opposite are in government they sack people.

**Mrs Frecklington:** We fixed the health system!

**Mrs GILBERT:** They slash and sack.

**An honourable member** interjected.

**Mrs GILBERT:** The waiting list, that was a good fix! Those opposite sacked 197 frontline health workers from the Central Queensland region. It was eye-watering. They come in here and pretend that they care about health workers when all they want to do is sack them. Whatever challenges are being faced in the system in the regions it is hard to see how it would be better met with fewer doctors and fewer nurses delivering health care. That is how they think you fix a health system: you sack them. We are proud that we are out there delivering quality healthcare services to Queenslanders no matter where they live. All those people in the Whitsundays work at Mackay Hospital and they have you in their sights.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! Put your comments through the chair.

**Mrs GILBERT:** Last year our budget allocation at Central Queensland HHS was a record \$691.4 million. That is an increase of 48.4 per cent on what those opposite allocated in the final budget that that lot brought down. Since coming into government in 2015 we have increased the number of

nurses delivering public health care in Central Queensland by over 50 per cent. That is better than the 197 healthcare workers that those opposite flicked off. We have increased doctors by over 41 per cent and the number of allied health staff by over 56 per cent. More staff means better health services delivered to regional Queensland. This government understands what Queenslanders expect. They deserve decent health care. We have been able to deliver into the Central Queensland HHS an additional 48 new beds through the expansion of the Rockhampton Hospital; 36 treatment spaces in Gladstone ED—the list goes on and on.

*(Time expired)*