




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR MACKAY

Record of Proceedings, 8 November 2022

MOTION

Satellite Hospitals

 **Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (7.27 pm): It is a little bit gobsmacking listening to those opposite attacking the Palaszczuk government's delivery of health infrastructure. When we look at the history of what they did with health services and health infrastructure, the only thing that they know how to do is sack people and close down services. I do understand how they find what we are doing a bit bewildering, because they do not know how to employ staff and they certainly do not know how to build infrastructure. The Leader of the Opposition still has not apologised to the over 4,000 frontline health workers that he assisted to sack. In contrast to what those opposite in the LNP are doing with their mentality of cutting and sacking, the Palaszczuk government has a great record when it comes to backing our health staff and our budget for health infrastructure. We are going to deliver three brand new hospitals. We are going to expand 11 hospitals. We are going to build a brand new purpose-built Queensland Cancer Centre. This is in addition to the long list of our new satellite hospitals—great hospitals. This is on top of all of the upgrades to hospitals that we are doing right across this state. The LNP has got itself into opposition because all it does is attack people and it sacks people. It clearly has not learnt its lesson, with the Leader of the Opposition recently revealing a plan for a debt reduction strategy. What would it do again? It would get out its old axes and it would start slashing staff.

Honourable members interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Bush): Pause the clock. The member for Mermaid Beach and the member for Pumicestone will cease their quarrelling.

Mrs GILBERT: The LNP has a plan to tear down our health system. We are getting on with building our satellite hospitals. Our satellite hospitals program is nation leading. Those opposite do not get that. It will take pressure off our emergency departments and our major hospitals and free up capacity for more complex services and surgeries. This is just what our health system needs.

I am particularly proud of what the Palaszczuk government is investing in in regional Queensland. In the Mackay region we are delivering an increase of operational funding to the health service of \$562 million in the budget, an increase of 9.2 per cent on the previous year. New infrastructure investment includes a \$250 million expansion for the Mackay Hospital which will deliver 128 beds and around 610 jobs. The first tranche of our rural and remote health program will replace the Moranbah Hospital, after those opposite were putting out rumours it was not going to happen. Mayor Anne Baker and her community are excited. We also have a significant capital increase in operational funding through Wide Bay, Central and North Queensland, such as a \$1.2 million investment into Bundaberg delivering around 121 additional beds; \$16.3 million in Rockhampton for the residential drug rehabilitation and treatment centre; \$530 million for the extension of the Townsville University Hospital; a \$250 million investment to refurbish Cairns Base Hospital; and a new \$30 million surgical centre to expand the Cairns emergency centre.

While we are getting on with building our health facilities and building up our workforce, those opposite, like the member for Mudgeeraba, are running down the health service, calling people in regional Queensland duds. The member for Everton has still not fessed up to the way that he was talking about health workers last sitting. It is absolutely disgraceful. Come up and face the people in the regions because they are waiting to see you two.