



Speech By  
**Hon. Meaghan Scanlon**


**MEMBER FOR GAVEN**

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Record of Proceedings, 8 November 2022

**MOTION**

**Satellite Hospitals**

 **Hon. MAJ SCANLON** (Gaven—ALP) (Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs) (7.37 pm): I rise to speak against the motion moved by the member for Mudgeeraba and support the government amendment. The LNP are good at bagging but not building. It is pretty astounding that they would come into this House and criticise the name ‘satellite hospitals’—hospitals that would not exist if they were elected to government.

It was particularly interesting to hear the comments made by the member for Currumbin, who comes into this House and opposes infrastructure in her own electorate. It is bizarre. The only thing that is fake is those opposite pretending they give a toss about health care when they sacked 4,400 health staff and gutted \$120 million from community organisations which the Minister for Health just laid out—organisations such as the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Health Service, AIDS Council, Deaf Services, Cerebral Palsy League, Diabetes Australia, the Stroke Association, Family Planning Queensland and Sands stillborn neonatal death support—and who could forget the cruel decision to shut down the Barrett centre with no adolescent mental health alternative.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Bush): Members to my left, I do not need your instruction. Member for Gaven, you did make an unparliamentary comment and I ask that you withdraw.

**Ms SCANLON:** I withdraw. We make no apology for investing in health care. To be very clear, from day dot we said, in a media release at the time of the announcement, that these satellite hospitals would deliver ambulatory and simple day services. They are satellite hospitals built near hospitals to bring care closer to home and take pressure off our other major hospitals.

Even the *Gold Coast Bulletin* called our satellite hospital ‘justified’. In an article written last month, Keith Woods said data shows that in the second quarter of this year there were over 35,000 patients admitted to GCUH and, of those, only 43 per cent were overnight admissions. The rest—the majority—of patients were able to go home—

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. I cannot detect who it is but I am going to issue a general warning to members on my left to cease their interjections. I will start warning members. Members for Coomera and Logan, you will cease quarrelling or you will be warned.

**Ms SCANLON:** The majority of those patients were able to go home the same day and did not require a bed. Similar data was put forward for Robina Hospital.

**Ms Bates** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Mudgeeraba.

**Ms SCANLON:** Therefore, to suggest that the Gold Coasters do not have the intellect—

**Ms Bates** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The member for Mudgeeraba is warned under the standing orders.

**Ms SCANLON:**—to distinguish the services offered is pretty offensive. Do members know what else is offensive? It is the member for Mudgeeraba calling regional nurses and doctors duds! If you want to talk about duds, why don't we talk about the man who was voted the worst health minister this country has ever seen in the past 32 years? That was Peter Dutton, whom those opposite just appointed as their leader. Over the past decade, when the LNP was in government federally, they did very little—almost nothing—to address the issues in primary and allied health care, the issues in the aged-care system and the issues for people accessing a GP. Meanwhile, we have been doing the heavy lifting.

**Mr Crandon** interjected.

**Ms SCANLON:** I note the interjections from the member for Coomera. On the Gold Coast we are investing significantly with \$1.3 billion for a new hospital in Coomera, a 114-bed expansion at Robina Hospital, a \$16.5 million Robina Hospital emergency department expansion, a 70-bed expansion at GCUH—

**Mr Crandon** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Coomera.

**Ms SCANLON:**—a 40-bed secure mental health rehabilitation unit at GCUH and—

**Mr Crandon** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Member for Coomera, I literally just said your name and you continued to argue. You are warned under the standing orders.

**Ms SCANLON:**—a \$4 million redevelopment of the Southport Ambulance Station. That does not even include the CT scanner that I recently opened at the Robina Hospital, the mental health stabilisation unit that we opened recently as well and, of course, the \$1.6 billion that we have committed to over the next five years to improve mental health across this state. What did the LNP commit to?

**Mr Crandon** interjected.

**Ms SCANLON:** Again, I note the interjections from the member for Coomera. A \$4 million planning study! That was it. There was no money committed to actual infrastructure on the Gold Coast. They get up with their fake outrage, but if they were elected to government there would be a planning study and that is it. In fact, there would be fewer health staff.

**Mr O'Connor** interjected.

**Ms SCANLON:** I take the interjection from the member for Bonney. We have been in government and, as I just outlined, we have been delivering.

**Mr O'Connor** interjected.

**Ms SCANLON:** I take the interjection from the member for Bonney, because since 2015 the Palaszczuk government has increased the Gold Coast Health and Hospital Service budget by 82 per cent. I am more than happy to stand up on our track record compared to that of those opposite any day of the week. The member for Broadwater gets up and talks about health care but what does he do? Nothing! In fact, his track record was to sack people. Not only are we committing to additional beds; we are committing to more nurses and more health staff. I commend the minister's amended motion to the House.