



Speech By  
**Rob Molhoek**


**MEMBER FOR SOUTHPORT**

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Record of Proceedings, 25 May 2022

**MOTION**

**Central Queensland, Health Services**

 **Mr MOLHOEK** (Southport—LNP) (5.20 pm): It is a pleasure to follow the member for Thuringowa. I am glad he actually referred to the recent health inquiry. One of the comments I made earlier in the week at our first committee meeting after the election was that we should forward a copy of this to the new Prime Minister and health minister and asking them to have a look at the 40 recommendations that were made as a result of this inquiry. What I have really enjoyed hearing over the last seven or eight years from this government is that every time they talk about the number of people who were sacked the number seems to grow. As I recall, I think there were some significant changes during the Newman era, but I do not think it was 4,000 nurses. I think it was an awful lot less than that.

**Mr Harper:** Remind the people of Queensland.

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

**Mr MOLHOEK:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I am not taking those interjections. We will not be supporting this amendment. The amendment is like a broken record. This government has had seven years now—in fact, more than seven years—to address some of the challenges in Queensland Health but for some reason they want to keep going back to the past. What we hear is that every year is a record year in health spending. When we were in government every year in health spending was a record year as well. In fact, I recall in our first year back in 2012 the health budget went up something like seven per cent across the state. On the Gold Coast I do not think it has ever gone up much less than 10 per cent year on year for the last decade, as it should.

I want to talk a little bit about what this means to the people of regional and remote Queensland. I had the pleasure of spending some time with the member for Gregory. We travelled through Emerald, out to Longreach and then to Boulia. Some of the stories I heard from some of the families in those far-flung, remote regions of Queensland would break honourable members' hearts. It is very easy for us all to get up here and rail about who is and is not doing what. However, the reality is there are some people out there whose families have been busted up because they have to travel hundreds if not a thousand kilometres or more to get the health care they need. On many occasions there is no provision for the separation of those families.

We have heard stories firsthand in Rockhampton of people who have travelled to Rockhampton for hospitalisation who have then been released at one or two o'clock in the morning onto the streets of Rockhampton with no plan to get them home, no transport and nowhere for them to stay. They are there 400, 500 or sometimes 1,000 kilometres away from their family and have to wait for a bus, a flight or some other form of transport the following day. This government needs to do better. That is the truth of it. All we have seen across the state is a reduction in health services and specialist services in so many parts of rural and remote Queensland. It simply is not good enough.

In this report so many recommendations have been made. It is my sincere hope that this report will be forwarded to the new Prime Minister because there are significant issues in here that need to be addressed. That is why this committee report was adopted and that is why members on this side of the House were part of that committee process and actually moved forward with it.

**Mr Harper** interjected.

**Mr MOLHOEK:** I take the interjection from the member for Thuringowa; it was a 'sham' report because it only looked at half the problem. That is because the government only wanted to look at those issues they could blame the former federal government for and were not prepared to do a full and open inquiry into all of the issues impacting health services within our state.

I will be looking forward to seeing what advocacy those on the other side of the House conduct in respect of these recommendations.