



Speech By  
**Shane Knuth**


**MEMBER FOR HILL**

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Record of Proceedings, 26 October 2022

## ADJOURNMENT

### Regional Queensland, Health Services

 **Mr KNUTH** (Hill—KAP) (8.48 pm): Our health system is collapsing in regional Queensland. The mandates still in place in Queensland Health have had a reverse effect and in fact are placing more people at risk. I have decided to read a letter given to me by a highly respected clinician outlining the desperate state of affairs in regional health. I table the letter.

*Tabled paper:* Letter, undated, from 'Regional Clinician' to the members of the Parliament, describing impacts of the Health Employment Directive No. 12/21 for Queensland Health staff in the Cairns and Hinterland Hospital and Health Service area [1762](#).

The letter states—

I am a clinician in your district and choose to keep my details non-specific for my own protection.

I have served as a traveling clinician and head of the department within the Cairns and Hinterland Hospital and Health Service for a decade.

In September 2021, the Health Employment Directive No. 12/21 for Queensland Health Staff was enforced.

The accumulated harm this directive has had, on the very people that members of parliament proudly represent, are unprecedented.

Since the Health Employment Directive, some of the longest serving and most dedicated staff in CHHHS are now terminated and those positions remain vacant.

I have been gagged by medical regulators and governing health authorities, stripped naked of my medical privacy and my career is being ripped out from underneath me.

Most recently, with the passing of the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022, the ethics, principles and pledges my colleagues and I live by are now worthless, with unfathomable future consequences to our patients and our rights.

When I began with CHHHS, the staff were ecstatic to finally have a local clinician in my field. My colleagues and I called for implementation of previously successful incentives to source clinicians specific to our department and region.

Bureaucracy hindered any form of meaningful action and the hurdles within the system have both deprived people of life saving treatments and further deteriorated health conditions.

In my local community, people express their plight with acute pain and how there is no treating clinician available in their time of need.

These people are tempting to seek basic healthcare services—which I am forbidden from being a part of due to the health employment directive.

How many people in your region have died or are living with a lesser quality of life due to delayed or complete lack of treatment?

I have committed my life to earning a degree and returning to my hometown to maintain and improve the mental health of my community.

When the system you choose to create, coercively controls, isolates and inflicts suffering on individuals—it is not only that person who suffers, but the family and community.

There are now barren services within our regional hospitals.

Unbelievable patient harm has occurred and is still occurring as a result.

The sentiments in this message are echoed by hundreds of people who I communicate with, who are too afraid to speak.

I am their voice today.

*(Time expired)*