




Speech By
Hon. Yvette D'Ath

MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE

Record of Proceedings, 25 May 2022

MOTION

Central Queensland, Health Services

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (5.05 pm): I move the following amendment—

That all words after 'notes' be omitted and the following inserted:

1. the external pressures on the Queensland and national health systems, including in regional Queensland;
2. the investment by the Palaszczuk government in Queensland's health system, including Central Queensland Hospital and Health Service;
3. the Palaszczuk government had to rebuild the Queensland health system after the Newman LNP government sacked nurses and health workers, including in Central Queensland; and
4. that the Palaszczuk government handed down a record health budget of \$22.2 billion in 2021-22.

An opposition member interjected.

Mrs D'ATH: Those opposite talk about Destination 2030 and say that it is sitting there gathering dust. It should be noted that, of the milestones identified for completion in 2021, 43 of the 47 have already been completed and four remain underway. But we do not hear that. No, it is just, 'You haven't completed 2030 by 2022.' We certainly know that the member for Mudgeeraba will not become a future treasurer unless she figures out that 2030 is not here yet.

On the issue of the CT in Biloela, I look forward to going back and reading every *Hansard* from when they were in government to see how many members, including the then health minister, talked about Biloela Hospital and the resources they were putting in and when they were going to promise a CT for them. I suspect I will not find anything if I do a scan and look for mention of a CT in Biloela to see if those opposite, who allegedly are standing up for the regions, have any evidence of ever doing anything. In fact, there were reports when they were in government that the LNP wanted to privatise medical imaging along with pathology and a raft of other services. That is what was being reported when the LNP were in government—that they would actually privatise these services.

As I was getting to my feet I heard an interjection about Prime Minister Anthony Albanese. We know that a Labor federal government is actually going to support the health system and understand the importance of investing in our health system.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Pause the clock. There is far too much interjection occurring. I will start to warn members.

Mrs D'ATH: Those opposite, including the member for Mudgeeraba, talk about acceptable facilities and investing in our regions, but they never reflect on their own record of cutting \$120 million out of funding to the Queensland Health community—Deaf Services Queensland, Cerebral Palsy

League, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Service, Queensland AIDS Council and child and family therapy services, and of course they closed the Barrett Centre as we know. That is in addition to all of the cuts to the health workers.

We would not have seen them doing town hall meetings talking about health when they were in government. I still remember the LNP candidate who was running against me standing up at a health forum and saying that the nurses who lost their jobs were happy to be made redundant. Then when a doctor stood up and said, 'What about the individual contracts for doctors? What are you going to say about that?' She actually said, 'I'm not aware of that issue.' She was a registered nurse and this was at a health forum during the Redcliffe by-election when they were in government. For the member for Mudgeeraba to come in here and talk about health and investment in capital infrastructure in our regions and in our staff is an absolute joke.

Also, those opposite run around this state and talk down the health system but at no stage talk about COVID, what is being seen around the country right now and the pressures on the health system. There is no acknowledgement whatsoever, compared to when they were in government. They had ramping. As members heard me say earlier today, they had ramping and they had surges with flu season. They had problems, but they did not have a global health pandemic. There are numerous media reports showing that all of the things they are now complaining about were happening under them. Conveniently, they have amnesia and they do not remember anything that happened when they were in government. I ask that members support our amendment, reflecting the investment by the Palaszczuk government.