




Speech By
Hon. Yvette D'Ath

MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE

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MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Health System

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (2.37 pm): As I rise to speak can I just address some of the issues that we have heard from those opposite today? The Leader of the Opposition talked about failures but still refuses to acknowledge what they did to the health system when they were in government. He talked about spending 10 years in the wilderness but does not acknowledge why. He talked about town hall meetings and solutions, and I will get to their so-called solutions in a moment. The member for Mudgeeraba just talked about actions speaking louder than words. She said do not give false hope, do not make promises you will not keep—like, 'Public servants have nothing to fear from us.' That was a promise made; it was not kept. Thousands of public servants lost their jobs, their families were impacted, their ability to keep a roof over their head was impacted and still they did not acknowledge the harm they caused. Actions speak louder than words—I could not agree more.

When the member for Mudgeeraba was in Mackay last week with the member for Whitsunday, tell me why, when they put out a notice saying there was a forum for all women of Mackay to come along to and be heard, did a female health consumer—

Mr Mander: Who was that person?

Mrs D'ATH: Why do you ask, member for Everton? I would like the member for Everton to say why—

Opposition members interjected.

Mrs D'ATH: They do not want me to say this. Why did the member for Whitsunday tell a member of the public, a female health consumer, to leave and that they only want women in attendance who have been affected by malpractice—

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Lui): Member for Everton, you are now warned.

Mrs D'ATH:—and it would be inappropriate for her to sit in as a concerned and interested member of the public? Tell me why a female who lives in Mackay who turned up to their public forum was asked to leave. They only wanted people affected by malpractice, yet they claimed it was a forum for the people of Mackay.

They talk about continued falsehoods, but they have peddled that rhetoric for years. They say that they care about women, yet they turn a woman away who wants to come and listen at their forum.

Mr BLEIJIE: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The Minister for Transport is on a warning. He interjected while my honourable colleague Ros Bates was speaking and he is interjecting during the Minister for Health's contribution. At what point does he get kicked out?

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am in control of order, member for Kawana. I do not need your assistance. The minister has the call.

Mrs D'ATH: The Leader of the Opposition likes to talk about transparency, yet when they get an RTI, they sit on that RTI.

Mr BLEIJIE: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The Minister for Transport is now quarrelling with me across the chamber. Hand on heart, I was quarrelling too, but the minister is on a warning. I bring it to your attention.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Minister for Kawana, my ruling stands. I call the minister.

Mrs D'ATH: The Leader of the Opposition likes to talk about transparency but, at the same time, he sits on an RTI until it is politically convenient to run the story and get into this chamber. Maybe they want the protection of privilege or maybe they just want to make a point of it, but they deliberately hold back information and then drop it to the media as an exclusive, even though it has been out there for weeks. They get very upset if the media gets the jump on them. We know that they do not like the media getting a jump on them on their RTIs before they are able to make a fanfare about them.

They talk about solutions. Their solution is four points—better resources, but they have not said what they would commit to; no dollars, no beds, no staff and no ideas. They talk about putting staff back in charge, but when clinicians make decisions they come in here and criticise those decisions. They talk about better triaging, which has already been done through the hospital system, and real-time data. We have patient access coordination hubs staffed by QAS and QH officers who are monitoring patient flow in real-time.

Mr Crisafulli: Release the data.

Mrs D'ATH: I hear the Leader of the Opposition say 'release the data'. Other jurisdictions like South Australia have done that and their ramping figures are through the roof. Those on the other side go out there, hold their town hall meetings and say that their four-point plan will fix everything. They are quick fixes allegedly, but there is no dollar commitment. In fact, we are putting on 9,475 extra frontline health workers—they sacked 4,400 in one term. So I will stand by our commitment of almost \$10 billion in capital infrastructure, building hospitals when they built none, putting on staff when they sacked staff and investing in NGOs in the health sector while they cut funding.