




Speech By
Ali King

MEMBER FOR PUMICESTONE

Record of Proceedings, 22 February 2023

MOTION: QUEENSLAND HEALTH

 **Ms KING** (Pumicestone—ALP) (5.13 pm): I rise to speak in support of the amendment moved by the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services. If the opposition wants to talk about health in Queensland, I stand by the record of our Palaszczuk Labor government. Queenslanders know that it is only Labor that delivers more frontline staff, new and upgraded hospitals and innovative models of care to tackle the pressures that our health system is facing.

In Pumicestone at the 2020 election we promised to build a satellite hospital at Bribie Island, and that is exactly what we are doing. Bribie locals know that our Palaszczuk government is delivering for them every time they drive past the site on First Avenue and see our awesome satellite hospital building rising from the ground. For people in Pumicestone, our satellite hospital means a new long-hours minor accident and illness centre, renal dialysis chairs, mental health services in their community—

Mr Millar interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Order!

Ms KING:—and other specialist hospital services tailored for our community in the heart of our community. Since 2015, across the Metro North HHS our Palaszczuk government has recruited—

Mr Millar interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Gregory, you are warned under the standing orders.

Ms KING: We have recruited 592 more doctors, 2,013 more nurses and midwives, 115 more ambulance officers and 553 more allied health professionals. That is our record. On the other hand, if we look at the LNP's record, at the 2020 election they dangled a half-baked last-minute building they called a hospital. When you dug beneath the surface, it did not offer any hospital services at all, yet they never stopped criticising our Palaszczuk government's satellite hospital that will offer the hospital services that our community needs right in the heart of our community.

The ugly truth at the heart of the LNP and at the heart of the member for Currumbin is that she and they simply do not believe in public health care. That is why last time they were in government they sacked 1,432 frontline health staff from our health area, including 731 nurses. That is their record: 731 nurses marched out the door.

Cutting health care is completely on brand for the LNP, and we saw that the federal LNP's record was just as horrific. Not only did the Abbott-Turnbull-Morrison government's Medicare rebate freeze strangle primary health care, they made things even worse in 2019 when they stripped GP priority status from our Bribie, Beachmere and Caboolture communities. GP clinics could not find doctors, locals waited up to six weeks for an appointment and bulk-billing rates dropped through the floor. Only a new federal Labor government giving back our GP priority service turned that situation around.

Lately I have noticed that the member for Broadwater has been making a lot of cooking videos. The only reason I can think of is that he is trying to make people forget what he actually cooked up when he was last in power. He is trying to cook up a shiny new image for himself so that, instead of thinking, 'Oh, there's that whingy guy who sacks health workers,' people might start thinking, 'Oh, there's the guy who makes cannelloni.' The reality is that the only thing the member for Broadwater hates more than pineapple on pizza is our local health workers. When he is in front of a camera cutting up steak, Queenslanders remember him cutting the jobs of those 731 nurses. That is the reality of the member for Broadwater's time sitting around Campbell Newman's cabinet table and his new plan to cut wasteful spending. The fact is: in his apron or out of it, the member for Broadwater is still the LNP's cuts guy. He only knows one recipe: cutting health funding, selling assets and sacking frontline staff.

I visited Caboolture Hospital recently. The staff there are in a parlous state, because when the LNP leader shows up in our community Queenslanders and our local health staff know that he is not there for them. He is nice to their faces, but when cameras are rolling he is attacking our health workers, he is bagging our hospitals and he is getting ready to sack our health staff. The LNP and the member for Broadwater have only one plan: cut, sack and sell. That is their recipe for Queensland. That is all they have and they need to be ashamed of all they have failed to deliver, in power and out of it, for Queenslanders and their health care.