




Speech By
Ali King

MEMBER FOR PUMICESTONE

Record of Proceedings, 13 September 2023

MOTION

Health Workers

 **Ms KING** (Pumicestone—ALP) (5.00 pm): Our Palaszczuk Labor government has a very strong track record when it comes to investing in mental health care, alcohol and other drug services and suicide prevention, but what did we see after we handed down our Mental Health Select Committee report? The Mental Health Select Committee report backed the biggest uplift in mental health funding and services that this state has ever seen. One would have expected the member for Broadwater and the LNP to have something to say about it. They did have something to say about it. The member for Broadwater stood up and condemned the Palaszczuk Labor government for our mental health care levy that will fund that enormous uplift in mental health care services into the future.

The member for Broadwater stood by the only stakeholders that matter to him. The member for Broadwater stood by the stakeholders with payrolls in the order of millions, tens of millions and hundreds of millions of dollars. He stood by those wealthy, huge, business stakeholders ahead of the most vulnerable people in our Queensland communities—the people who are facing challenges to their mental health, the people who are in suicidal crisis, the young people who need services.

When we look at the LNP frontbench, who do we see? We see the same set of faces that closed the Barrett Adolescent Centre, leading to the deaths of multiple young people. Members opposite have blood on their hands and they need to be ashamed. Not once in my time in this place or once in the time any members of the Palaszczuk Labor government have been in this place have we seen those opposite apologise for the deaths of those young people or for the 4½ thousand health workers they sacked. Now they want to break the backs of our health workers. They need to be ashamed and they need to apologise.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Member, you used some unparliamentary language in that contribution. I ask you to withdraw.

Ms KING: I withdraw.