



Speech By
Andrew Powell

MEMBER FOR GLASS HOUSE

Record of Proceedings, 22 August 2023


APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL

APPROPRIATION BILL

Consideration in Detail (Cognate Debate)

Appropriation Bill

Health and Environment Committee, Report

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (5.26 pm): As a member of the Health and Environment Committee, I too rise to address the Health and Environment Committee's estimates report. At the outset, I want to correct a comment made by the Minister for Health. What was very clear and, I guess, the summary from the Minister for Health's appearance before the Health and Environment Committee was that she is wonderful at announcements but really bad at delivery and checking some of the facts in particular. She again today made some comment about the fact that, as a member of the committee, I get paid a certain amount. The minister is wrong. As the Manager of Opposition Business I get paid a certain amount. It has nothing to do with my membership on a committee at all. In fact, I actually enjoyed being at the Health and Environment Committee hearing purely for the fact of watching the member for Mudgeeraba, the shadow minister for health, ask very forensic questions of the Minister for Health and expose the Minister for Health for the shortcomings that—

Mr Janetzki: The many failings.

Mr POWELL: The many failings—I take that interjection from the member for Toowoomba South—that we exposed. It all started with clearly what was designed to be a drop to the media the night before about this new website that the minister would launch and this new era of open data that Queenslanders could see with the member for Waterford as the new Minister for Health. That did not last very long. It became very readily apparent that there was some key data missing from that website, specifically the number of hospital beds. When this was pointed out to the Minister for Health, the minister said, 'Well, look, that is clearly a mistake. We will fix it. We will get that sorted.' Sure enough, they did. The only problem is they uploaded the wrong data. In every single case, including Caboolture Hospital, Redcliffe Hospital and Sunshine Coast University Hospital, the number of beds that were loaded onto that website in the break were far less than the actual beds. What is very clear yet again, even with the change in minister in the health portfolio, is they keep getting it wrong. They keep getting it wrong. It does not matter who the minister is. This government cannot manage the Department of Health and cannot provide the important health services that Queenslanders need.

We heard from the previous speaker, the member for Mirani, that hospital ramping is now up to 45 per cent across the state. What did those opposite inherit? It was 15 per cent. It has trebled in the eight years they have been in government. What does that mean for the people of Glass House? It

means if they ring triple 0 and ask for an ambulance they have a one-in-two chance of them turning up because the other ambulance is sitting on a ramp at Sunshine Coast University Hospital, Nambour Hospital or the Caboolture Hospital, or they have had to bypass those hospitals and go to Redcliffe or Chermside. That is what it means.

We also saw a very interesting situation occur where we could not get an answer from either the minister or the director-general as to how many part 9 health service investigations were actually occurring across Queensland. What does this mean? These are the most serious internal reviews undertaken by Queensland Health. The director-general has to be notified if they are occurring, yet the director-general could not provide a straight answer as to what was actually unfolding in Queensland Health at this time.