



Speech By
Brent Mickelberg

MEMBER FOR BUDERIM

Record of Proceedings, 11 October 2023

MOTION

Liberal National Party, Health

 **Mr MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (2.39 pm): This is just the latest pathetic attempt to play politics by a health minister who is out of her depth. Just as she did in her last portfolio and the one before that, the health minister takes her riding orders from Jackie Trad. She is Jackie Trad's apprentice. This is out of Jackie Trad's playbook, page No. 1. We see it time and time again.

We could talk about substantive issues here today, such as the fact that Queensland hospitals were on tier 3 150 times in a quarter. They could not cope 150 times in a quarter. Seven thousand hours were lost on escalation in one quarter. We could be talking about that but what are we talking about? Pathetic little motions that are designed to throw mud on this side by a government that has been in the wilderness for 10 years! Half of us on this side were not even a part of the former government that they complain about. I was not here.

An opposition member interjected.

Mr MICKELBERG: I take the interjection. I was not here; I was overseas defending the nation when the LNP was last in government.

Do members know what the people of my electorate want? They want action and change. When I go to Rockhampton, people tell me that they are disgusted that their hospital has the highest ambulance ramping in regional Queensland and could not cope 15 times in a single quarter. What did the member for Keppel have to say about that? Nothing! The member for Keppel came in here with a written, rehearsed speech—I will give her credit: at least this time she was not sat down within the first two minutes—but she did not once address the substantive issues affecting her community. I contrast that with the actions of Nigel Hutton, the LNP candidate for Keppel. That man has been doorknocking parts of Rockhampton, North Rockhampton and Yeppoon. He has been listening to constituents. When he listens to those constituents they tell him that they are concerned that the health system is not coping. The health system is not coping and the member for Keppel's answer is to come in here and play politics.

We are wasting an hour of our time when the Minister for Health could be focusing on substantive issues that will make a difference. We have ambulance ramping at 45 per cent. When this government came to power it was at 15 per cent. The figure has increased three times since this government came to power. There is a long waitlist. It was at zero when this government came to power. What is it now? It is at record levels, and this government does not care! They would rather play politics. They care more about what something looks like than how it really is. They care more about the spin than the substance.

Chaos and crisis are besetting the government. We saw it in question time as the left were quickly jockeying to try to fix the Minister for Water's answer, which threw the member for Pumicestone under the bus after she had already had a rough morning. Premier Palaszczuk came in here to try to ask the Minister for Health about what was actually going on—

(Time expired)