




Speech By
Brittany Lauga

MEMBER FOR KEPPEL

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MOTION

Liberal National Party, Health

 **Ms LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (2.16 pm): I am still in shock at the fact that we are having this debate in this place and the Leader of the Opposition has said that one of the ways that we can help fix our health system is by dedicating better resources. This is from the same man who sat around the cabinet table when Campbell Newman was the premier of this state and agreed to the sacking of 4,500 healthcare workers. He comes in here today and says that our health system needs better resources. Is that what he said around the cabinet table when they made that decision—‘No actually, premier, we need more resources in health, not less.’ Did the member stand up to the premier and those others around the cabinet table that day when they proposed to sack so many healthcare workers? I doubt that he did.

In Central Queensland alone, 197 healthcare staff were sacked—that is just in Central Queensland. Eighty-four health staff were sacked from the children’s hospital. How can you possibly agree to sack 84 doctors, nurses and healthcare workers from the children’s hospital? Those opposite keep saying, ‘But that was years ago.’ I can tell you that the nurses, doctors and healthcare workers do not forget. They were so hurt and devastated that they will never forget.

Back in 2015, in the lead-up to the state election, Rachel—an emergency department nurse from the Rockhampton Hospital—joined my campaign. She stood out on Thozet Road many a morning and afternoon with a sign asking people to ‘toot to boot Newman’. She joined the campaign because of the devastation that she had witnessed at the Rockhampton Hospital emergency department when then premier Campbell Newman and the LNP sacked those 197 healthcare workers. For a minute, can we all in this House put ourselves in the shoes of those healthcare workers who work tirelessly to care for, protect and keep our community safe? To have a government come in and blatantly sack so many people who were there to care for the people of our state was so devastating, and their memories will run long.

It is even more devastating to have comments from the member for Mudgeeraba, and others in this House, calling regional healthcare workers ‘duds’. It was the member for Chatsworth who said that we already know that we could prune things back. The former LNP Currumbin MP described the LNP—

(Time expired)