




Speech By
Bruce Saunders

MEMBER FOR MARYBOROUGH

Record of Proceedings, 11 October 2023

MOTION

Liberal National Party, Health

 **Mr SAUNDERS** (Maryborough—ALP) (2.54 pm): I rise in support of the motion moved by the Minister for Health. What a great health minister we have in this state. If you close your eyes you can imagine the opposition's health minister. They talk about chaos. It would be unbelievable. Thanks to the member for Kawana who said that we should talk about local hospitals. I want to talk about the Maryborough Hospital. Can you believe that the LNP government closed the pathology department at the Maryborough Hospital? They said, 'You can take the blood down by taxis.' The only people who liked it were the taxidriviers because they had a constant stream of taxis from Maryborough to Hervey Bay. Guess who opened the pathology ward? It was the Palaszczuk Labor government. I will repeat that for the tone deaf opposite: it was the Palaszczuk Labor government. Who built the new A&E at the Maryborough Hospital? All together members: the Palaszczuk Labor government. That is who did that. The only thing you could get at the Maryborough Hospital under the LNP was a bandaid, if that.

Since the Palaszczuk Labor government came to power, we have opened all the wards and increased the A&E. We are doing up the mental health unit at the Maryborough Hospital. Those opposite were the only government in the history of the great state of Queensland to cut funding to mental health, but look at what we are doing. They never apologised. The member for Burnett and the member for Mudgeeraba say the nurses like them. We must be talking to different nurses because they would not win a popularity contest in my electorate. If the vote were taken now, I can assure members opposite that it would be negative and not positive. A goat with a hat on would win because they are not popular.

Since the Palaszczuk government came to office there has been over an 80 per cent increase in Wide Bay health funding. We have more ambos. Not only that, we now have ambos dealing with mental health issues. They go around when people are having mental health issues. That is unbelievable. We have nurse navigators. The list goes on and on. Since coming to power, the Palaszczuk government has reinvigorated health in the Maryborough electorate. If people visit the hospital now, they will find staff. We did not cut staff. Across the Wide Bay, those opposite cut 345 staff.

We hear the member for Callide always talking about midwifery services and babies being born on the side of the road. Who cut nursing and midwifery support and education? All together members: the LNP Newman government. That is who cut the funding. Members opposite have more hide than Jessie the elephant to come in here and talk about health.