




Speech By
Charis Mullen

MEMBER FOR JORDAN

Record of Proceedings, 11 October 2023

MOTION

Liberal National Party, Health

 **Mrs MULLEN** (Jordan—ALP) (2.48 pm): I am pleased to rise in support of the motion moved by the Minister for Health. There is a famous quote regarding the definition of insanity that I think is apt when describing the potential of the member for Mudgeeraba ever becoming the Queensland health minister. When you know a political party's record and values when in government, when you know the performance and ethics of the member when she was a minister and when you read or hear the comments that the member has made and continues to make then it really would be insanity to give the LNP power in Queensland and to elevate their shadow health minister.

The LNP ripped \$1.6 billion from the Queensland Health budget. They cut regional health services. They slashed \$120 million from funding for critical health organisations in our communities including child and family therapy services, not to mention closing the Barrett Adolescent Centre, which had devastating consequences.

Where organisations were offered funding, they were formally gagged from ever criticising the then government—outrageous and an affront to freedom of speech and expression. The LNP sacked more than 4,000 health workers. In total, they sacked 14,000 Queensland public servants. There is no denying this. There is no trickery and no spin; it is the truth.

There was never any remorse for their decisions nor the way it was done, which was particularly devastating for so many. I would have thought at least the member for Mudgeeraba would have understood the devastation and hurt, having been sacked herself by Premier Campbell Newman, but maybe it is not the same when you are only in a role for such a very short time. The member for Mudgeeraba had a limited and hardly illustrious tenure as a minister, but in that time she misled the parliament and got caught up in a CCC investigation and a QIRC matter—the workers' friend; no wonder she chooses to only support and promote a fake union. She was busy doing everything except her job, but sometimes people can change.

Mr Mickelberg interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Buderim, you are warned under the standing orders.

Mrs MULLEN: We should always try to give them the benefit of the doubt, but self-awareness is clearly not a virtue of the LNP nor the member for Mudgeeraba, because her comments and actions as the shadow minister for health clearly show that nothing has changed. Regional health workers are duds, according to the shadow minister. Hospital workers are on notice, according to the shadow minister. As foreshadowed by the member for Burnett, she has not ruled out cutting the pay and entitlements of health workers. She has also refused to ask her own leader how they will fill that \$7 billion black hole if they reverse our progressive coal royalties which we are using to invest in significant health infrastructure. I am very pleased that the member is looking after her own health, but

what about the health of Queenslanders? Where are the LNP's policies? Perhaps, as she said last week, you do not need to reinvent the wheel when you have the Newman's government's records to aspire to—just cut and paste. After all this, I say to the Leader of the Opposition—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Please resume your seat. Member for Mudgeeraba, I have tried to give you some guidance. I know you are being provoked, but there is no excuse for the continual interjections. You are warned under the standing orders. The member for Bonney is also warned under the standing orders.