



Speech By  
**Dr Christian Rowan**


**MEMBER FOR MOGGILL**

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Record of Proceedings, 13 September 2023

**MOTION**

**Health Workers**

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (4.33 pm): I rise to address the motion as moved by the health minister, the member for Waterford. I move the following amendment—

That all words after 'community' be omitted.

If we look at the motion, the first part says—

supports and thanks Queensland's hardworking frontline health workers for the care they provide our community

Everyone in this House supports all of our frontline clinicians—doctors, nurses and allied health professionals. They have done terrific work throughout the COVID-19 pandemic and they do terrific work each and every day in our state hospital systems and it is very important that we do recognise them. Let us call out this motion for what it is: it is misleading and deceptive when we look at the other parts of the motion. We already know, as has been stated by the Leader of the Opposition and the shadow health minister, that there has been a press conference and statements issued refuting what is contained within this motion.

The Labor Party is doing this because it is always about smoke and mirrors. When the going gets tough for Labor, it is always about trying to move motions and not look at its track record as to what is happening in Queensland in relation to our hospital and health system. Ambulance ramping is at 45 per cent—the highest of any state jurisdiction right across Australia, and in some places it is even worse. There have been clinical governance failures occurring at places like Caboolture and Mackay Hospital. There are rural maternity service issues when it comes to Chinchilla and Cooktown and other rural maternity services are under pressure, and this Labor government has failed to address those. The Gladstone maternity bypass had been occurring for over a year before it was restored, but it is still under pressure.

There has been no proper health workforce planning. This government has done nothing when it comes to factoring for the future in terms of the number of doctors, nurses and allied health professionals that we are going to need, let alone adequately planning the bed numbers right across Queensland. It talks about satellite hospitals, but even patients themselves are turning up to the satellite hospitals and saying that they are misleading because the services that they thought they would get at satellite hospitals they are not getting. They think they are going to turn up and get emergency care through an emergency department and it is simply not there, and it is not the opposition that is saying that; it is the patients and the public who are turning up to these facilities. Look at the newspaper today in relation to the number of tier 3 hospital declarations right across Queensland.

**Ms Fentiman** interjected.

**Dr ROWAN:** The health minister interjects, but what the health minister should be doing is looking at those tier 3 declarations and fixing them for patients, because what it means for patients is that they are not getting the surgery that they need on time or patients are going to have to be sent to other

hospitals and their clinical care is potentially jeopardised and patient safety is put at risk. Then we have those ambulance delays that I talked about before and what that means for residents right across Queensland. They write to us all of the time—to members of parliament and to members of the opposition—about the fact that they cannot get an ambulance. They are waiting at home, they have serious health issues and the ambulances do not turn up. Why do they not turn up? Because they are ramped. Nearly one in two ambulances in Queensland are ramped.

Then there is renal dialysis in Longreach. It was promised in 2020. Is it still being delivered? It has not been delivered yet. Again, some of our most vulnerable people with kidney disease, particularly in the central west, should be entitled to that and it was promised in 2020. We have seen this all before under the Beattie and Bligh Labor governments. Do members remember Labor's 'triple P' program? It had the payroll fiasco, the Jayant Patel debacle and the fake Tahitian prince. They are examples of absolute clinical governance failures, and the government could not even pay its staff. That is why it had the \$1.2 billion payroll fiasco. Those opposite come in here and talk about conditions in relation to health staff in Queensland, but they could not pay those staff back then.

This is really about the chaos and crisis of the Labor government. This is really an audition when it comes to the member for Waterford, but maybe it is going to be the member for Woodridge or the member for Murrumba. They are all jostling over there. They all want the top job. Labor has been at war with itself and it is just a matter of who is going to take out that top job. I tell members what: the LNP is listening to Queenslanders. That is why there have been the town hall meetings that our shadow health minister and the Leader of the Opposition have been facilitating.

**Ms Bates** interjected.

**Dr ROWAN:** There have been 33; I take the interjection from the shadow minister for health. They are about healing Queensland's health crisis under this Labor government. When it comes to this motion, we can all agree that we need to support our frontline clinicians, but our frontline clinicians are desperate for the support that they are not getting from this Labor government. They are not getting the resources that they need. They are not getting the beds that they need. They are not getting a functional Ambulance Service. They are not getting everything else that they need and Queenslanders are crying out for help. As I said, we have seen it before under the Beattie and Bligh Labor governments. The Palaszczuk government is exactly the same as those. This is a government of chaos and crisis and this is simply an audition by the health minister to be the premier of Queensland.