




Speech By  
**Corrine McMillan**

**MEMBER FOR MANSFIELD**

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Record of Proceedings, 22 February 2023

**MOTION: QUEENSLAND HEALTH**

 **Ms McMILLAN** (Mansfield—ALP) (5.46 pm): I rise to speak in support of the amendment moved by the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services. The Palaszczuk government is about listening and delivering, unlike those opposite who cannot help themselves but cut, sack and sell. They do not know any other way. We have a plan that includes actual funding, actual hospitals and actual jobs. The Queensland Health and Hospitals Plan is a \$9.78 billion plan to invest in new hospitals and beds across Queensland. It is not a planned plan. It is not a plan to review. It is not a plan to cut. It is a plan to deliver world-class hospitals that are being built by our government right now, creating good local jobs and ensuring people across the state, including those in my electorate, can access the healthcare services that they need.

The ambitious Health and Hospitals Plan will see three new hospitals and the new Queensland Cancer Centre delivered as well as expansions at 11 sites including at hospitals near to my electorate, the QEII hospital and the PA Hospital. A \$465 million expansion at QEII will deliver 112 additional beds. As part of the Accelerated Infrastructure Delivery Program, a further \$25 million investment will be made into 28 modular wards. Together, both of those projects will create around 1,200 construction jobs. That is creating jobs and not cutting them. I am also exceptionally proud of the \$12.1 million 26-bed medical ward that opened at QEII hospital in June of last year. Ward 5A means greater capacity to manage demand and improve access to inpatient care. Importantly, it recommissioned an old ward that had previously been occupied by administrative staff.

The PA Hospital will see around 249 new beds with an investment of \$350 million under our Health and Hospitals Plan. A refurbishment to the renal unit at the PA will deliver three additional beds in the second half of this year as well as the redesign and refurbishment of eight treatment spaces within the existing renal unit and increasing dialysis treatment bays.

The ambulance officers based at Wishart station need to be commended for their tireless work supporting our community. Of course, they are enjoying a brand new addition to their ambulance fleet, because this is what good governments do.

I want to talk more about our satellite hospitals, which will provide healthcare services to patients closer to their homes and in a more convenient location. Only those opposite could argue against delivering services to Queenslanders. We do not know what those opposite would do with the satellite hospitals should they ever be returned to the government benches—probably sell them off to the highest bidder at the first chance! As I mentioned earlier, they do not know any other way. Residents of Eight Mile Plains will have a satellite hospital in their community, and residents of the southern end of my electorate will enjoy this access close to home. Our \$376.9 million Satellite Hospitals Program will provide day therapy services such as renal dialysis and chemotherapy, outpatient services and community-based health services such as mental health support and oral health.

Those opposite will shut down our ideas and plans, but what alternatives will they propose? Cutting healthcare workers, just like they did when they were last in power? Ripping funding out of non-government organisations? Running our health system into the ground all over again? In fact, 1,470 public servants lost their jobs in my community. In Metro South alone, the former Newman government sacked 926 staff. They only budgeted \$1.9 billion in their last budget. Metro South's budget in 2022-23 was \$3.02 billion. The difference is abundantly clear. The Palaszczuk government builds; the LNP cuts. The Palaszczuk government creates jobs; the LNP sacks. Who knows what they will sell? They do not have a plan and they cannot deliver. I commend the amendment to the House.