




Speech By
Corrine McMillan

MEMBER FOR MANSFIELD

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MOTION

Hospital, Performance

 **Ms McMILLAN** (Mansfield—ALP) (6.08 pm): I rise to support the amendment moved by the health minister. I am proud to be part of a government that supports our health heroes, the health professionals on the front line who day in, day out provide quality services to the people of this great state. We make no secret of the fact that the health system in Queensland is imperfect, but we are proud of the work led by the Premier and the Minister for Health to improve, reform and revitalise the system for those who work in it and for those who rely on it.

Part of this work is a commitment to provide Queenslanders with a transparent and honest account of the state of play. Greater transparency encourages monitoring, tracking and greater accountability, and we are following through on that commitment. Indeed, just last month the Minister for Health announced an updated Queensland hospital performance website, ensuring Queenslanders will have access to more health data than they have ever had. Six new data points are now included on the updated website: monthly patient-off-stretcher time; the number of tier 3 escalations, designed to help hospitals manage local capacity issues; comparative data to show how Queensland shapes up to other jurisdictions; the number of long-stay patients in our hospitals; trend information for the number of specialist outpatient appointments offered; and ambulance response times. Further, the new-look and easier-to-navigate website means that this information is easily understood and more accessible for all Queenslanders.

We now know that more meaningful information about how our health system is performing means that we will all have a better understanding of the pressures on our frontline health staff and what they are facing every day. We know that transparency, scrutiny and feedback help to drive service improvements which benefit all Queenslanders. This is why we make so much health data available to the public—not like those opposite, to score political points and denigrate our hardworking health professionals. It is not lost on me that this very data—the data we are proactively and proudly releasing—is being leveraged to criticise the supposed opacity of the government. I categorically reject this notion. It flies in the face of fact, and it is certainly not a view shared by the broader public. Indeed, just this morning, an editorial in the *Courier-Mail* described the government's commitment to transparency and the proactive release of this data as 'right and brave'. This is a far cry from the member for Mudgeeraba's characterisation.

The member for Mudgeeraba, the member for Broadwater and the member for Kawana all sat around the Newman cabinet table when the LNP wreaked havoc on our health system. Here is some health data: they sacked more than 4,400 health workers including 1,800 nurses and midwives. Some 1,470 public servants from my electorate of Mansfield were sacked during the Newman years. They cut \$1.6 billion from the Queensland Health budget. They axed hospital beds across Queensland. They closed the adolescent mental health unit, a facility that supported the most vulnerable young Queenslanders. They cut \$120 million in funding to Queensland health community organisations and

they crippled the public system by trying to force unreasonable working conditions on doctors. The member for Moggill knows that very well. They cut, sack and sell. That is all the LNP know. It is always the same story—the same people, with the same dastardly plan and the same destructive outcome for our health system and for hardworking Queenslanders.