




Speech By
David Crisafulli

MEMBER FOR BROADWATER

Record of Proceedings, 11 October 2023

MOTION

Liberal National Party, Health

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (2.11 pm): One thing is for sure—it has been a very bad week for the member for Waterford. One thing is for sure about the member for Waterford: when she is in a hole, she looks to her colleagues and says, ‘I can get us out of this. Hold the shovel and give me the keys to the excavator because I am going to keep digging.’ It has been a very bad week, but I will tell members what is really concerning. In a week when we have heard some of the biggest failures of the health system this state has seen, in a week where we would think the minister would be looking every single minute to find a way to fix the broken system, we would think that the member would be doing the following in this hour.

I would expect the health minister in an LNP government to pick up the phone and say, ‘Are there victims who have reached out who have not been given the justice that they need when it comes to rape examinations?’ This is what I would be doing in this hour. I would be asking the HHSs and senior people in the department what has been done to make sure that women have justice and that the broken system—that we said would be fixed by July and has not been—has been fixed. I would be using the hour to ask: why is it that ambulance ramping remains at 45 per cent—the worst in the country? Why is it three times higher than when we came to office? That is what a good government would be asking in this hour.

A good government would be asking: why is it that waiting lists continue to soar and that Queenslanders are at the end of a broken system where they are not listened to and they do not get the treatment they deserve? We saw the minister come into this place and use a precious hour of her time to try and somehow claw a tiny win from a backbench that looked on her with disdain today. They felt sorry for her as she wilted under the pressure and continued to repeat the words ‘six minutes’. It was robotic. The member for Pumicestone, who scored the greatest home goal this place has ever seen, caused the health minister to go into meltdown. The cherry on the cake was the water minister throwing her under the bus one more time—that was the icing on the cake.

Health in this state is in crisis. The only people who refuse to admit it is in crisis are the people who are charged with the responsibility of fixing it, so let me explain to members what needs to occur in this system. Firstly, we need better resources. That involves going to Canberra and saying, ‘Where is the fifty-fifty funding?’ This election was a referendum about fifty-fifty funding. The Premier, the Treasurer, a conga line of senior ministers said that it would be the defining moment of the election campaign. It has been crickets since. In fact, the only comment this government wants to deny more than Mr Albanese not giving fifty-fifty funding, concerns when he said, ‘Governments do not get better in their fourth term’—that is the only comment they walk further away from.

Secondly, we need better triaging. How is it that people are being logjammed into EDs and frontline staff are not being listened to on the solutions they are putting forward? Thirdly, we need sharing data in real-time. I commit that within 100 days of an election of an LNP government

Queenslanders will see how their hospitals are performing. That will enable not just the minister to hold them to account, but five million Queenslanders can hold the government, the senior public servants and indeed the minister accountable—that is the way to do it. Not by having a postage box in the member for Pumicestone's office to vet who can work for Queensland Health. It is about making sure that data is shared in real-time. Above all, it is about saying to doctors and nurses: we value you, we respect you and we are going to put you back in charge of your hospitals.

When I have doctors and nurses tell me about what it feels like to receive another text message asking them to do another shift, they are broken. They are battered; they are bruised; they are the victims of nearly a decade of poor planning. If members want proof that this government is not up to the job of fixing it, the minister has wasted an hour of our precious time to play a game, rather than to get justice for a broken health system.