




Speech By
David Janetzki

MEMBER FOR TOOWOOMBA SOUTH

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MOTION: QUEENSLAND HEALTH

 **Mr JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (5.52 pm): When the history of the Palaszczuk Labor government is written—and believe me, member for Pumicestone, it is being written right now—health will be the Palaszczuk government’s greatest failing, just as it was in the Bligh-Beattie era. Think back to that end of that era. We had the fake prince, the basket case of Queensland Health being split and of course the payroll crisis. Nurses were underpaid, overpaid and never paid.

An opposition member interjected.

Mr JANETZKI: Yes, the member for Sandgate was there for that, too.

An opposition member interjected.

Mr JANETZKI: That is right: it was the member for Stafford back in those days.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Order! Pause the clock. Member for Sandgate, you will return to your seat if you want to engage in this debate.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, members! Member for Bonney, you are on a warning.

Mr JANETZKI: I cannot forget the Jayant Patel incident either. Now we are nearing 10 years of this government, and I do not think it is any coincidence that the two previous health ministers were two of the three most senior figures of the government. I do not have any sympathy for the member for Redcliffe, but the seeds of this disaster in our health system were sown by the former health minister the member for Murrumba and the then health minister the member for Woodridge. Let’s look at the seeds that were sown over those years. Imagine: 38 maternity services—the member for Nanango just spoke about it—have closed since 1998. The member for Callide represents an electorate bigger than Tasmania and there is not a single place for a woman to have a child in that electorate. This government is shameful.

What about satellite hospitals? The member for Glass House did a brilliant job. Member for Pumicestone, it is time to call them what they are. They are not satellite hospitals. It is time to be honest with the people.

Then we have the fifty-fifty health funding. I remember that time and time again the Treasurer would look over here at the opposition leader and say, ‘Pick up the phone and talk to ScoMo.’ It is time to reply in turn: ‘Treasurer, pick up the phone to your mate down the road, the member for Rankin, the Treasurer of Australia, Jimmy Chalmers.’ Just a couple of boys from Logan, right? I can imagine, though, that the Treasurer probably had a tough time tracking down the federal Treasurer over summer. Jim Chalmers was pretty busy over summer writing his article—remaking capitalism. Isn’t that humble: just remaking capitalism? Just a couple of boys from Logan—the ‘slogans’ from Logan! Come on Treasurer. Pick up the phone and talk to your mate Jimmy Chalmers. It is time to go there. Let’s face it: he is about to remake capitalism—tax by tax, intervention by intervention and super account by super account. That is how they plan to remake capitalism in Australia.

The one thing the Treasurer here in Queensland has in common with the federal Treasurer is that he loves taxes. We have seen it again with the patients tax. We know that they are addicted to it. We know what the AMAQ and the RACGP have said about it: it is illogical, it is immoral, it will mean the death of bulk-billing across regional Queensland, it will force doctors from practice and, most importantly, it will mean it will cost more for people to go and see a doctor—in the middle of a cost-of-living crisis. We know that it is still a live issue. There was political panic and the Treasurer had to put it on ice for a couple of years, but we know it is still a problem.

The Family First Medical Centre submitted a petition in the belief that the member for Hervey Bay would stand with them. The member for Hervey Bay promised them he would to fight for the 27,000 patients on the books, but who was the sponsor of the online petition? It is the Clerk! The member for Hervey Bay should stand with the 27,000 patients in his electorate who are concerned—the diabetes patients and those with long-term illnesses who will pay more to see a doctor. It will be the member for Hervey Bay's fault, together with the Treasurer. He should stand up for his people. We know that those opposite are at war internally. Who knows what the Treasurer said to the member for Hervey Bay to stop the petition. They are at war with lawyers, magistrates, investors, the taxpayer and each other. That is why they will never be able to—

(Time expired)