




Speech By
Deb Frecklington

MEMBER FOR NANANGO

Record of Proceedings, 30 March 2023

PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Nanango Electorate, Health Services

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (2.19 pm): In 2022, 1,777 people, including Rosie and Riley, had to travel outside of our region for life-saving chemotherapy or anticancer treatment. Being diagnosed with cancer is bad enough, but the added stress of having to travel such long distances is exhausting and expensive. The figures that I have revealed today came from a question on notice. It is shocking. It revealed that since 2018, the number of people—children and adults—from the South Burnett requiring chemo has more than doubled. It confirms that all these people must travel for at least two hours, some of them up to four hours, each way because they cannot access chemo locally.

Yes, Premier, we do have a brand new hospital, but we do not have the services in it. On behalf of those 1,777 people I am calling on the Premier to give us what she promised. In a press statement the health minister said she would give us telechemo. We do not have telechemo. It is in the documentation from the very beginning. The hospital has now been open for two years and this House has heard all of the issues with it, but we do not even have this service. Instead the health department is saying they are currently evaluating the suitability of expanding this service to the South Burnett.

Those opposite talk about women's rights, but what about women who are suffering from breast cancer who have to travel for four hours to get chemo? What about women who live in the Callide electorate who have to travel for hours to give birth? That is what I am talking about when it comes to women's rights. How about the Palaszczuk government start looking after women of rural and regional Queensland and everyone else in the South Burnett who is suffering from cancer. We know the figures are going up. We know more needs to be done around cancer awareness. The stress and strain on families who have to travel outside of the region for treatment is unbelievable. Glenys wrote to me sharing her deep concerns for her elderly neighbour, a woman in her eighties, who is travelling to Toowoomba every two weeks for chemo. She wrote—

Surely a town as big and thriving as Kingaroy could offer this vital service to their local community.

There are so many other sad stories. I have been calling for a specialist cancer care navigator nurse as well. The Palaszczuk government got rid of that in 2020. We want that service back. We want a chemo nurse in Kingaroy!