




Speech By
Jarrold Bleijie

MEMBER FOR KAWANA

Record of Proceedings, 13 September 2023

MOTION

Health Workers

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (4.55 pm): Honourable members will know that, from time to time when we get sick during a parliamentary sitting week and cannot get to a doctor, we may seek the advice and services of some people in this chamber such as the good member for Moggill or the good member for Mudgeeraba, Nurse Bates RN. I can tell you this, Deputy Speaker: there is one person I do not seek advice from and that is a former Labor industrial lawyer who goes on skiing trips with Jackie Trad in Whistler. That is who I do not take my health advice from.

Ms Fentiman interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: The health minister may scream at me all she wants, but I would not take health advice from her at all.

What we are clearly seeing here is the health minister's attempt to get the attention of the Labor Party backbench. Cameron Dick, the Treasurer, did it with his manifesto and now it is the health minister's turn. She said this is her 'look at me' moment. This is also a moment when the Labor government tries to distract from all the leadership rumbblings going around in the Labor Party: 'Let's just grab onto something. Let's grab onto a Facebook post. Let's just move a motion. Let's blow it up so it distracts from the issues that Queenslanders are talking about and it distracts from the leadership turmoil of the Labor Party.'

I say to the health minister that Queenslanders will not be distracted by silly little motions moved in this chamber. Queenslanders expect this health minister to concentrate on what she gets paid for, which is to assist Queenslanders to get the health care they want and they deserve. That is why I absolutely support the amended motion to back our health workers.

It is no secret that, when the Labor Party were elected in 2009, the very first thing they did was delay the Sunshine Coast University Hospital. They delayed it. That was their priority in health and then the Bligh government did not pay health staff.

Ms Fentiman interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjection: zero dollars. Health staff got zero dollars under the Labor government. Zero!

Ms Fentiman interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the gesticulatory interjection from the health minister. Zero dollars were paid to health staff under them.

The health minister wants to talk about hospitals. We opened maternity services in regional Queensland. We got rid of the dental waiting list. The cataract waiting list went down to either zero or very low. The waiting list to get on the waiting list was gone because people were getting the surgery they needed under the LNP government. We prioritised patients in Queensland and we got them the services that they so desperately needed.

The member who spoke previously, the member for Rockhampton, gave a really enthusiastic contribution. However, what he failed to mention is what he has failed to do for his community, that is, to tell this health minister that his community is suffering the worst ambulance ramping outside of South-East Queensland. He shakes his head. Is he denying the fact that his Rockhampton community—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Through the chair.

Mr BLEIJIE:—is suffering 55 per cent ambulance ramping at the local hospital? That is the worst result in the state outside of South-East Queensland.

The member had five minutes to stake a claim for his community against this health minister and call on the health minister to get rid of the ambulance ramping so that members of his community are better protected when they go to hospital and get the services they need. He said not a word to this health minister because their priority is politics, not patients. This health minister prioritises photos, not patients. It is about photo opportunities, not patients.

Ms Fentiman interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjection. The Leader of the Opposition had a press conference. The shadow health minister said that what the minister said was deliberately misleading. She should listen and look at the press conferences.

(Time expired)