




Speech By  
**Julianne Gilbert**

**MEMBER FOR MACKAY**

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Record of Proceedings, 22 February 2023

**MOTION: QUEENSLAND HEALTH**

 **Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (5.35 pm): I support the amended motion of the minister. Let us be clear: those opposite only have one plan when it comes to addressing the pressures that health systems are facing nationally. We just heard from the member for Oodgeroo, who has no plan, bagging the health system. We know what the plan from those opposite is just by looking at their legacy in health. It is quite startling. They cannot deny the legacy that they have left behind. Their track record is cuts. There was not a frontline professional that was left untouched. They cut doctors, they cut nurses, they cut midwives, they cut allied health professionals, they cut paramedics. Under that lot 4,400 health workers were gone.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Member, you will use correct titles in this place and refer to people by their correct titles.

**Mrs GILBERT:** Those opposite are hell-bent on their crusade to tear down the health system. They made cuts to funding. They sacked thousands of frontline services. They have the audacity to think they could do a better job. Shame on them. It is clear that it is only the Palaszczuk government that is able to face the challenges of health systems right across the country. Those opposite like to blatantly ignore the fact that they sacked 4,400 health workers the first chance they had and they will do it again. The member for Oodgeroo banged on about the satellite hospital that he is getting down his way. Did those opposite have any plans for any hospitals? Did they build any? Nothing, zip, bags of hot air.

Only last week I was on the ground down in the mighty town of Sarina where they are well on the way to building a brand new hospital. It is a truly beautiful sight. Not only is it a you-beaut, brand new, state-of-the-art hospital; it will improve health care and also provide jobs for the community. I am so proud to be the assistant minister for health and regional health infrastructure because I get to meet the most amazing people, people like Woollam's construction apprentice, James Falzon.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mrs GILBERT:** Look at those opposite putting down the locals in my area. I get to meet people like Damian Paull, Brad Muir and Max Druery. They are all working on the Sarina Hospital. That is just one project that we are delivering as the Palaszczuk government. I will offer some advice to those opposite: read our Queensland Health and Hospitals Plan. It is a blueprint for what a real government does. It is a good read and it could help those opposite to get some policies and plans together instead of being full of hot air. The Palaszczuk government has committed \$9.75 billion of additional funding to deliver new hospitals because the LNP planned zero and delivered zero. It is only this side of the House that has a plan for hospitals, including the Mackay Base Hospital, a state-of-the-art cancer centre and an extra 2,509 extra beds.

To drive home the message, there will be a new \$1.2 billion hospital for Bundaberg, which the member for Bundaberg just cannot stop talking about as he is so proud of it. There is the \$1.3 billion hospital for Toowoomba. The member for Toowoomba campaigned for a lesser hospital. His plan would have been 3.4 per cent of what we are going to spend. That is what he promised for the people of Toowoomba. What a bad plan. It was another half-baked plan from the LNP. They just cannot get it right.