



Speech By  
**Julianne Gilbert**


**MEMBER FOR MACKAY**

---

Record of Proceedings, 13 September 2023

**MOTION**

**Hospital, Performance**

 **Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (5.58 pm): I support the health minister's amended motion. The Palaszczuk government is throwing everything at the health system to make sure Queenslanders get the world-class health care that they deserve. We are building new beds, and employing frontline staff as our state needs to keep up with demand. The data that the LNP have been talking about today is part of our commitment to making sure that Queenslanders have access to more data about their health system than ever before.

Tier 3 escalations are one of the many ways that our senior clinicians monitor and report capacity in our public hospitals so that resources can be directed to where they are needed most. They allow for central coordination of patient flow and resourcing, meaning patients can get the care they need and critical cases are prioritised. The LNP continue to show that they are more interested in spreading fear and misinformation about our health system and around the community than they are in seeing real solutions. These escalation processes mean that the most critical patients are still able to be prioritised and ambulances are able to take patients to hospitals that have capacity. Tier escalations are about giving our amazing health workers the tools they need to ensure the most critical patients are looked after.

**Mrs Frecklington:** This is exciting, isn't it?

**Mrs GILBERT:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I would like the member for Nanango to withdraw.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Pause the clock, please.

**Mrs GILBERT:** I take offence at the member for Nanango's comments.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The member has taken personal offence. I would ask you to withdraw.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** I withdraw.

**Mrs GILBERT:** However, on our side of the House we know we build our hospital capacity by investing in our hospitals and investing in more beds. We have committed \$250 million for the expansion of the Mackay Hospital. This project is delivering 128 overnight beds which includes: 112 additional acute beds, eight additional paediatric beds, an additional four maternity beds, four additional neonatal spaces, 12 additional same-day beds, an additional birthing room and an expansion of facility support services. This is on top of the work that the Palaszczuk government has already done, such as having our heart catheter lab upgraded to 24/7. We also have a dedicated orthopaedics ward with specialist trained staff. That is something we have done as a government.

I am proud to be delivering for the people of Mackay, but capacity is not just about beds. It is about making sure that we have the staff needed to look after the people in those beds. Since we were elected we have employed almost 19,000 more frontline workers and we are committed to hiring 9,475 more during this term of government. We will not sack our health workers; we will bring them back.

The Palaszczuk government proudly introduced nurse-to-patient ratios in 2016, a measure that those opposite voted against. We know that ratios save lives and money, but those opposite would rather see our hardworking nurses be stretched thin. They just want to break their backs. Thanks to the progressive coal royalties, we are building a brand new \$48.5 million hospital in Moranbah, much to the delight of the Moranbah community and, I am sure, the member for Burdekin. Of course, we have no idea what their position is on coal royalties. The opposition leader says one thing, the member for Burleigh contradicts him and the member for Burdekin runs off to do his own thing. We just cannot trust those opposite on health. This is a party that cut \$45 million from mental health during their first year in government, the first government in Queensland history to do so. This is the party that cut thousands of health workers including 1,200 nurses and midwives. This is the party that called regional frontline staff 'duds'. The LNP have a disgraceful track record when it comes to mental health.

*(Time expired)*