



Speech By
Kim Richards

MEMBER FOR REDLANDS

Record of Proceedings, 22 February 2023

MOTION: QUEENSLAND HEALTH

 **Ms RICHARDS** (Redlands—ALP) (5.57 pm): This is a moment of déjà vu for me. I recall a very similar contribution in November last year. I was looking at the speakers list. Four of the speakers opposite sat in the LNP Newman government and I think the member for Callide was still in his teens. Some 50 per cent of those on the other side of the House sat in the Newman government. I ask them to put up their hands if they sat in the Newman government. Not one member opposite wants to put their hand up.

You cannot rewrite their history. The member for Glass House spoke about history. The member for Toowoomba South just spoke about writing history. The Newman government wrote a very dreadful history when it comes to health care, particularly in the Redlands. We heard crickets on the Barrett centre. Was there any apology for the closure of the Barrett centre? No. Was there an apology for the closure of Wynnum Hospital? No. Was there an apology for closing of the Moreton Bay nursing home? No, there was no apology for that. Was there an apology to the sacked healthcare workers? I hear silence.

I think about the workforce and about the amazing teams of nurses, doctors and staff who care for our people. I had the opportunity to visit our TAFE. Alexandra Hills TAFE was ready to close. They are out there training our nurses of the future. What is the LNP's track record? They close, they cut, they sack and they sell. You cannot rewrite that history.

That is in stark contrast to what we are delivering. I have heard in the contributions from those opposite what satellite hospitals will deliver. Where do people get chemotherapy services? I will tell members where they get them. They get them in a hospital. I said that in my last contribution. Where do people get renal dialysis services?

Mr Head: Not in Longreach.

Ms RICHARDS: In a hospital is where you get them, member for Callide.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! The level of interjection is far too high. Member for Callide, I would ask you to stop quarrelling across the chamber.

Ms RICHARDS: Renal dialysis, chemotherapy, X-ray, ultrasound—

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Nanango, I just asked the House to come to order and bring down the level of interjection. You immediately injected yourself into the debate. You are on a warning.

Ms RICHARDS: Our satellite hospitals are going to deliver healthcare services for our communities closer to home. I had the opportunity to visit the satellite hospital a couple of weeks ago. It is going gangbusters. I give a huge shout-out to Josh and Darren on site. They are doing an amazing job. We were on site on the hottest and most humid day in the world two weeks ago. They are doing a

fantastic job. They have taken me through the spaces. They are not far off starting the defects liability phase. They have done an absolutely amazing job. The site was handed over to Hutchinson Builders on 7 January and they are at the point of getting ready for the defects liability phase.

That hospital is going to be amazing for my Redlands community. It is going to be amazing for the growing southern end of the Redlands. I heard the member for Oodgeroo say in his contribution that he thought it should have been in Cleveland. Where is the growth occurring in the Redlands? It is occurring down in the southern Redlands and across the Southern Moreton Bay Islands. It will be a fantastic asset for our community.

In terms of the Redland Hospital, the car park is the linchpin. Anyone who knows anything about planning would know that that site needed the car park rectified before—

Mr McDonald interjected.

Ms RICHARDS: There are seven storeys, Jim. The car park unlocks the site.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Use correct parliamentary titles, please.

Ms RICHARDS: Sorry, Mr Deputy Speaker. The car park unlocks the site. The expansion of the hospital will see the delivery of the ICU and 27 additional beds. In the last budget there was funding for 25 additional beds that will deliver even more services to my Redlands community. When we talk about delivery it is happening right there. We have had 11 additional paramedics provided to help service the Southern Moreton Bay Islands.

Across the healthcare spectrum, it is the Palaszczuk government that is delivering. That is in stark contrast to the LNP. At every election we only need to look at the commitments that were not there. What they did when they were in office is telling. It tells the story. A leopard does not change its spots—they cut, they sack, they sell. I would not be surprised if on their agenda somewhere is that they would sell off the satellite hospitals. Privatisation is in their DNA. I am proud of what the Palaszczuk government is doing. It is more than the LNP will ever do. Their track record and their history speaks for itself. They are not fooling me and my community. Their track record speaks volumes.