




Speech By
Mark Robinson

MEMBER FOR OODGEROO

Record of Proceedings, 29 March 2023

MOTION: CAIRNS, TOWNSVILLE AND REDLANDS ELECTORATES

 **Dr ROBINSON** (Oodgeroo—LNP) (5.32 pm): I support the motion moved by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition that the House notes that the lack of adequate health services in the Redlands has resulted in ambulance ramping reaching a record 73 per cent. The motion further acknowledges the selection of three strong community-based LNP candidates: Rebecca Young, Redlands; Natalie Marr, Thuringowa; and Yolonde Entsch, Cairns. These women are championing the interests of the residents of their electorates and helping ease the cost-of-living, health and crime crises facing Queenslanders.

Labor's health crisis continues to impact patients at our local Redland Hospital. The worst ever ambulance ramping at 73 per cent, the worst in the state and the worst in Redlands history under this Labor Party government, will never be forgotten. It is an extreme low in health service delivery in the Redlands and a stain on the Palaszczuk government. There has been nothing new built and opened at the hospital in eight years, no new overnight beds and no intensive care unit, which was promised by this government to be up and running in 2022. As of right now, today, it is still not built and operating during one of the worst health crises in Queensland history. Our amazing health workers at the hospital were put under greater pressure than they should have been.

Labor's failure to deliver at Redland Hospital is brought into sharper focus when you consider that they prioritised the building of a medical centre instead of the more critical hospital upgrade and expansion. Redlanders were also alarmed when they heard that Redland Hospital was the worst performing in Queensland when it came to waiting for more than a whole day in the emergency department to be admitted to a bed, the only exception being Hervey Bay. AMA Queensland president Dr Maria Boulton called for urgent action to address alarming concerns about risks to patients at Redland Hospital. Dr Boulton said the expansion of Redland Hospital must be delivered, not mothballed indefinitely. I agree with the AMA president who said, 'The people of Redlands and the doctors, nurses and other healthcare workers who strive against the odds every day to deliver quality and safe health care deserve better.'

Redlands definitely deserves better treatment from the government, whether in the provision of health services, cost-of-living relief or to be kept safe from Labor's youth crime crisis and in many other ways. That is why I am happy tonight to talk about the newly endorsed LNP candidate for the Redlands, Rebecca Young. Born and bred in the Redlands, Rebecca has built a life in the community she loves. Educated at Victoria Point State School and Ormiston College, Rebecca has blended raising kids with building a successful business career in the Redlands. Rebecca has always been actively involved in the Redlands community through local sport, as have her parents who are life members of the Victoria Point Sharks Sporting Club. She has volunteered for the Redlands Women in Business initiative and is the recent past president of the Redlands Coast Chamber of Commerce, where she served as a volunteer for five years. In 2021 she was named Redlands Australia Day local community hero.

Rebecca Young's passion for the community is what drives her to stand up for the Redlands. She knows there is broad community frustration with the severe lack of government investment in the Redlands Hospital and local road infrastructure coupled with growing anger about the youth crime crisis. Rebecca states that energy must be channelled towards lasting change that will unleash the power of the local economy and improve the lives of those who love working and living and running small and family businesses by the bay. Being a small business owner and mother, she has a lived understanding of the pressures being placed on households and businesses. Rebecca is a strong voice for the Redlands. She will continue to engage and listen to her community when they tell her what is most important to them. Easing cost pressures facing families and small businesses is an important value that she has lived out. Redlands deserves better, and with the LNP candidate Rebecca Young as part of an LNP government they will get it.