



Speech By  
**Hon. Meaghan Scanlon**


**MEMBER FOR GAVEN**

---

Record of Proceedings, 13 September 2023

**MOTION**

**Hospital, Performance**

 **Hon. MAJ SCANLON** (Gaven—ALP) (Minister for Housing) (5.48 pm): I rise to speak in favour of the amendment moved by the health minister. I am surprised to hear that the opposition want to talk about health data because, unlike the member for Broadwater, I as a Gold Coast MP actually went to the election with health commitments. Here is some data on the Gold Coast. We are expanding the Robina Hospital by 114 beds and there is \$16.5 million for a Robina Hospital emergency department expansion as well. There is: a 70-bed expansion of the Gold Coast University Hospital; a \$4 million redevelopment of Southport Ambulance Station; a \$1.3 billion, 404-bed hospital at Coomera; a satellite hospital in Tugun; and a 40-bed secure mental health rehabilitation unit at the Gold Coast University Hospital, which is under construction right now. That is in stark contrast to those opposite who, when they had their time in office—

**Ms Grace** interjected.

**Ms Bates** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): The members for McConnel and Mudgeeraba will cease their quarrelling across the chamber.

**Ms SCANLON:** When they had their time in office, they closed down the Barrett centre, the adolescent mental health facility for young vulnerable Queenslanders. That is their record. In stark contrast, we are partnering with the federal government to also deliver an urgent care clinic.

What did those opposite actually commit to on the Gold Coast? There are quite a few Gold Coast members on that side opposite. What did the member for Broadwater commit to? What did the member for Mudgeeraba, the shadow health minister, commit to? The members for Coomera, Theodore, Surfers Paradise, Mermaid Beach, Bonney, Burleigh, Currumbin and Southport—none of what I just mentioned would exist if those opposite were elected to government. In fact, the urgent care clinic would not exist as well if the Morrison government were re-elected to government. They did not commit a single dollar to actually build any health infrastructure on the Gold Coast, yet they have the audacity to come in here and whinge and whine with no plan. All they committed to was a planning study—that was it—for the entire Gold Coast; a planning study, but no actual money for infrastructure. In fact, they committed to 5,000 fewer health workers than the Palaszczuk government as well, so there would be 3,270 fewer nurses, 750 fewer doctors, 860 fewer allied health staff, and 155 pure paramedics. You want to hear some more health data? 4,400—that is how many health jobs those opposite cut as part of their so-called debt reduction plan.

**Ms Bates** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The member for Mudgeeraba is warned under the standing orders.

**Ms SCANLON:** We heard today what some LNP members really think about those health workers—the shadow minister in the LNP saying, ‘It is time we broke the back on unrealistic employee entitlements,’ talking to a grandmother of a health worker here in Queensland. The Leader of the Opposition has had to do a bit of scrambling, though, this afternoon to try to backtrack on what his member said. He had to try to put out some fire after his assistant minister started to highlight the real DNA of the LNP’s hatred for pay and conditions of hardworking frontline health workers. I suspect he is disappointed—disappointed really that each and every day someone from his team describes a little bit more of what their secret plan for cuts is. I would also be disappointed if I were the Leader of the Opposition. In fact, their shadow health minister referred to regional health workers as duds. So you can just imagine what they actually say behind closed doors if that is what they say in the public domain.

In stark contrast, we have been employing more doctors, nurses, paramedics and health staff. In fact, in the most recent budget, we provided a record budget of over \$2 billion for the Gold Coast Health and Hospital Service. That is a 100 per cent increase since 2015, and I am very proud of the track record of our health staff. On the Gold Coast alone, our emergency department saw more than 50,000 patients in the last quarter with a 15 per cent increase in the most critical category 1 cases. Despite that, the median wait time at EDs was 12 minutes, with the majority of patients being seen within clinically recommended times. We are also seeing the Queensland Ambulance Service being the busiest ambulance service in the country.

**Mrs Frecklington:** They are sitting on ramps.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** You are on the speaking list next, member for Nanango. Cease your interjections or I will warn you.

**Ms SCANLON:** This Labor government will continue to make sure that that service is free and that we employ more paramedics. I find the member for Nanango’s interjections bizarre, given that if she were the leader elected at the last election, there would be fewer of those frontline health workers. I will stand up on our track record any day of the week.