




Speech By
Michael Healy

MEMBER FOR CAIRNS

Record of Proceedings, 29 November 2023

MOTION

Liberal National Party, Cuts

 **Mr HEALY** (Cairns—ALP) (4.22 pm): Just before I begin my contribution, I want to remind the member for Kawana of what happened when he was the attorney-general, taking into account his comments at the beginning of his contribution: the assistance given to victims was slashed by \$323,000. We had the Leader of the Opposition standing up there saying, 'I'll guarantee this.' He came into the city of Cairns and gave a guarantee to people and then he came down here and backflipped. He absolutely backflipped on it and he did it because it was popular. If he expects to be able to come into this chamber and stand over there and talk with any credibility, he has absolutely lost that.

When you hear the member for Burnett talk about breaking the back of unrealistic entitlements, what signal does that send? Let me ask those on that side this question: what signal does it send when your own leader backflips like that? What signal does it send to the people of Queensland when your backbenchers are making those sorts of comments? What messages are people meant to take out of this when the member for Chatsworth tells people that he has already identified billions of dollars worth of cuts? You are a pack of frauds and it is as clear as the day is long. The member for Broadwater cannot even lie straight in bed.

Look at what you have done in the past. Seriously, it is absolutely appalling. In my part of the world, there were 306 health workers, including 48 nurses, who were sacked. In Central Queensland, 197 people were sacked. I often wonder how the National Party would feel if they still existed today. In Central Queensland, 197 health workers were sacked, including 41 nurses. The sackings continued: on the Darling Downs, 116 health workers; on the Gold Coast, 57 health workers, including 54 nurses; in Mackay, 32 health workers, including 12 nurses; and in Metro North, 1,432 health staff, including 731 nurses. It is absolutely appalling and your history will follow you. We have the new Coomera Hospital. We have a new Toowoomba Hospital. We have the new Bundaberg Hospital. We have the new Redcliffe Hospital expansion underway. We are investing money. You can stand up and defend all the Japanese mining companies you want. We will represent Queenslanders. I tell you what: the people of Queensland want more in '24.