



Speech By  
**Hon. Shannon Fentiman**


**MEMBER FOR WATERFORD**

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Record of Proceedings, 13 September 2023

**MOTION**

**Hospital, Performance**

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance Services and Minister for Women) (5.16 pm): I move the following amendment—

That all words after 'House' be omitted and the following inserted:

1. notes the new transparent health data reporting as committed to by the Palaszczuk government
2. notes the Queensland Health and Hospitals Plan is delivering the largest ever hospital building program in our state's history, including:
  - (a) three brand new hospitals in Bundaberg, Toowoomba and Coomera
  - (b) seven new satellite hospitals to help take the pressure off emergency departments, including:
    - (i) Redlands
    - (ii) Tugun
    - (iii) Caboolture
    - (iv) Ripley
    - (v) Kallangur
    - (vi) Bribie Island; and
    - (vii) Eight Mile Plains
  - (c) 11 major hospital expansions across Queensland, including:
    - (i) Cairns Hospital
    - (ii) Hervey Bay Hospital
    - (iii) Ipswich Hospital
    - (iv) Logan Hospital
    - (v) Mackay Hospital
    - (vi) PA Hospital
    - (vii) QEII Hospital
    - (viii) Redcliffe Hospital
    - (ix) Robina Hospital
    - (x) The Prince Charles; and
    - (xi) Townsville University Hospital
3. notes the impact the wait times and costs associated with seeing a GP are having on Queensland's health system and the work underway with the Commonwealth to further address these issues.'

I am so proud to be part of a government that is investing in more infrastructure, more beds and more staff. Last month I was very proud to release more health data than ever before—more than ever in Queensland's history. We are committed to transparency and I do want Queenslanders to know the

pressure that our Queensland health system is under. It is under enormous pressure from everyone who wants to move here and live in this great state to our ageing population to the critical shortage of GP, particularly those who bulk-bill. That is why we have a plan. We have the Big Build to deliver the beds and infrastructure that will take the pressure off our emergency departments.

Some 2.2 million people attended our emergency departments in the last financial year—the highest number on record. Many of those presentations included category 4s and 5s, like earaches, UTIs and ingrown toenails, that should have been seen by a GP. Now they can go to a satellite hospital and make sure that they do not put pressure on our emergency departments.

I am so proud of our three new hospitals, our seven satellite hospitals and our 11 expansions, delivering 3,300 more beds over the plan and 500 beds this financial year. It is not just about the beds, the buildings and the infrastructure because we can have the very best buildings in the world, but what makes a health system is the frontline staff. This financial year we are employing an extra 4,000 frontline health workers—more nurses, more doctors, more midwives. I will tell members what we will do. We will not cut their pay and conditions. Despite what the member for Burnett—posting late at night—said about having to break the back of these unrealistic entitlements, we back our healthcare workers and we back the pay and conditions that they have fought hard for. They are always going to attack nurses' pay. It is in their DNA. It is absolutely part of their DNA.

What I am very pleased to see is that our investment in beds, staff and infrastructure is starting to see results. Despite there being more presentations than ever before, 100 per cent of category 1 patients are seen in time. We have seen huge improvements in elective surgery because of our hardworking staff. The data that I released today about the Caboolture Satellite Hospital, which has only been open for a month, is already showing fewer tier 3 selections at the Caboolture Hospital—one of our busiest hospitals.

The record of those opposite speaks for itself. How many thousands of health workers lost their job? I cannot travel the length and breadth of Queensland without a nurse or a doctor talking to me about how terrifying that time was when they and their colleagues were constantly under attack, never knowing whether they were going to wake up and have a job tomorrow. People still talk to me about that time. The Leader of the Opposition has still not apologised for sacking those health workers, he has not apologised today for the member for Burnett getting out ahead of them talking about their plan to cut their pay and conditions, and he has not apologised for his shadow health minister referring to our health workers as 'duds'. I am proud of our government delivering the beds, the infrastructure and the staff we need for a wonderful health system.

*(Time expired)*