




Speech By
Ali King

MEMBER FOR PUMICESTONE

Record of Proceedings, 22 August 2024

PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Bribie Island Satellite Hospital

 **Ms KING** (Pumicestone—ALP) (2.09 pm): I cannot begin my contribution without addressing the comments of the member for Whitsunday. Like many women on this side of the chamber, I spent the 2020 election surrounded by Cherish Life activists who were campaigning actively against a woman's right to choose, using corflutes that were displayed on LNP A-frames. Those opposite cannot claim to support a woman's right to choose. Shame on you.

On a more positive note, every day I hear how Labor's vision to deliver free hospital care in the heart of our Bribie Island Satellite Hospital is changing lives for the better. Bribie local, Kate, told me—

At the satellite hospital on Tuesday night, I have no words for how amazing the doctor I saw was. So I personally, as a resident, would like to thank you for our satellite hospital.

That is what Labor governments do: we build hospitals; we invest in public health care closer to home; we back our health workers; we do not sack them in their thousands; and we do not close hospitals like the LNP did.

I fought every day to deliver our Bribie Island Satellite Hospital and to now see stage 2 built which will deliver chemotherapy services into our community. I say to our community: make no mistake, our satellite hospital is under threat from the LNP. The LNP attacked our satellite hospital every step of the way. The very day we announced it, LNP figures rang me to demand we spend the money on a private hospital instead. They have denied that there are doctors at our satellite hospital, they have said there is no X-ray equipment, they have attacked the services, and they have told people not to use our satellite hospital. This is dangerous fake news. It risks locals not seeking health care when they need it. It has been disappointing to see attacks on our satellite hospital being spread by the LNP's candidate for Pumicestone; that is, when she is not boasting that she will be the youngest woman ever elected.

Who can forget the last time the LNP elected the youngest ever MP, Campbell Newman's member for Lytton, the young man who stood by while Campbell Newman closed Wynnum Hospital, the young man too inexperienced to stand up for his own community hospital? We do not want to see that history repeated in Pumicestone.

We have seen that the Leader of the Opposition is not honest with Queenslanders. He will not answer hard questions like whether his business traded while insolvent or failed to pay tax. He could not balance the books on his business and he will not come clean with his plan for health cuts.

LNP shadow ministers admit they have already identified areas they can prune. The member for Burnett called health worker entitlements 'unrealistic'. The shadow health minister attacks our satellite hospitals and calls regional health workers 'duds'.

Despite the Leader of the Opposition's shifty silence, we know what is in the LNP's health cuts plan. They will privatise our satellite hospital, they will downgrade the critical services it offers, and they will sack local doctors and nurses. The LNP have gutted Queensland Health before and they will do it again. We cannot trust the LNP on health.

(Time expired)