



Speech By  
**Brittany Lauga**


**MEMBER FOR KEPPEL**

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Record of Proceedings, 14 February 2024

## MOTION

### Miles Labor Government

 **Ms LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (5.52 pm): It is insulting to see the hard work and investment this Labor government has delivered for the Far North disparaged by those opposite, including the member for Everton. I am very pleased to speak after the member for Everton, who was, of course, the housing minister in this state when we saw social housing go backwards. He comes in here this evening talking about housing in Queensland and has the audacity to have a go at our government. He was the housing minister in this state when we saw social housing go backwards. It did not increase; it went backwards by 428 homes in this state.

I know that the members for Cairns, Barron River and Cook have worked tirelessly to deliver better outcomes for locals in Far North Queensland since their very first day on the job, and they have been very successful. Those members have been part of delivering the largest ever investment in health care across Far North Queensland. They have been part of a government that has hired 1,450 frontline health workers in the regions since 2014—a government that is delivering 96 new beds for the Cairns and hinterland region and a state-of-the-art surgical centre. We are redeveloping Atherton Hospital with a new emergency department, maternity ward and helipad. On top of this, we are also providing an \$11 million funding boost for maternity services in Cairns to safeguard the world-class birthing services that regional women expect and deserve.

We are also delivering our \$1 billion Building Rural and Remote Health Program. I am incredibly proud of this program, which is designed to make sure that our rural and remote health facilities can continue to provide world-class health care with updated and replaced facilities. In the Far North it is delivering the \$14.8 million Cow Bay Primary Health Centre. It will include a new surgical centre with a short-stay unit featuring improved clinical spaces for visiting specialised staff. It means the region will be better equipped for health emergencies whilst a parent is awaiting a helicopter retrieval.

Our Miles government is delivering these projects and hiring frontline health workers because we believe in delivering better health care closer to home for all Queenslanders, no matter where they live. That is something I am incredibly passionate about and will continue to drive in this portfolio as assistant health minister.

Now let us take a look at the approach of those opposite. The member for Broadwater and the LNP ripped over \$1.5 billion in funding from Queensland Health. They cut funding to community organisations that provide critical support to locals right across Queensland, and across just one term of government Campbell Newman and the member for Broadwater sacked 306 frontline health workers in the Cairns and Hinterland HHS as well as 96 health workers in the Torres and Cape HHS. Any local in the Far North will assure you that those cuts were a huge loss to the community. The reality is that under Campbell Newman and the LNP over 400 frontline health workers were sacked from regional and remote communities in the Far North. We know that these communities need and deserve equal access to health care.

Now we have the member for Mudgeeraba calling regional health workers duds. It has been hundreds of days and the member for Mudgeeraba still has not apologised for the words she used when she came in here and described our healthcare workers as duds. Meanwhile, the member for Burnett does not think they deserve fair workplace entitlements—a fair day's pay for a fair day's work. It is clear that absolutely nothing has changed. The only plan the LNP has for Queensland is a plan to cut, sack and sell.