




Speech By
Glenn Butcher

MEMBER FOR GLADSTONE

Record of Proceedings, 12 December 2024

PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Gladstone Electorate, Health Services

 **Mr BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (2.18 pm): As a born-and-bred Gladstone local, I am passionate about my community and I will always stand up for our locals. Over the last few days in this House we have learned that health care and incentives for staff in Gladstone have been slashed by the LNP government. It was a Labor government that committed to, and delivered, a much anticipated nurse-led walk-in clinic for the Gladstone region. I was even happier that under Labor the clinic was going to open seven days a week, from 8 am to 10 pm. I know how important these opening hours are for our shiftworkers in town and our parents and, most importantly, to take pressure off the accident and emergency department at the hospital.

Unfortunately, that is the end of the good news for this new clinic, with its official opening this week revealing that the new LNP government had installed one of its first cuts to services at the Gladstone clinic. This shameful act of this new government has cut the opening hours from seven days a week to six days a week, with the opening hours changed from 8 am to 10 pm to now be 9 am to 5 pm on Monday to Friday and 10 am to 5 pm on Saturday. That is a 40 per cent cut to the hours that service was supposed to provide to support the community of Gladstone. This decision is a slap in the face to the nurses in Gladstone and the Gladstone community itself.

That was one of the first two cuts for Gladstone by the LNP this week—the second being that they have axed funding for cash incentives to lure health workers to regional Queensland, including Gladstone. I have met with many of the nurses and doctors at the Gladstone Hospital who were drawn to our region from other states and countries on the back of the financial support that a Labor government in Queensland gave for them to work at the hospital. Everyone knows that there is a global health workforce shortage, and this decision by the LNP is absolutely disgraceful.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank the amazing staff at the Gladstone Hospital who work tirelessly every single day of the week to take care of our growing community. Those workers are truly our health heroes. I will stand up and back them every single day of the week because I know that a Gladstone Hospital that has good staff and good people in it will make a better community for Gladstone.