




Speech By
James Martin

MEMBER FOR STRETTON

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ADJOURNMENT

Health System

 **Mr MARTIN** (Stretton—ALP) (7.25 pm): On this side of the House we support good quality, universal health care for all Queenslanders. In my electorate of Stretton, where people come from all over the world to settle and raise a family, I hear time and time again how important it is that the state government provides good quality, first-class, publicly owned and operated health care and hospitals for all. It is a priority for the Labor government but an irritation for the LNP.

On this side of the House we are getting on with the job of building the hospital and health infrastructure that we need. Locally, that means 112 new beds for QEII Hospital, new wards and surgical theatres, and more car parks. At Logan Hospital we are seeing a massive expansion, which is almost complete: four new floors, hundreds of new beds and also operating theatres. We have the Eight Mile Plains Satellite Hospital almost complete. It will provide life-saving care, dialysis, chemo, outpatients, minor injuries and illness and other services. Importantly, it will take pressure off the Logan and QEII hospital EDs.

We have employed more doctors, nurses, paramedics and health workers and right now we have jobs advertised for people to work at the Eight Mile Plains Satellite Hospital, which I know is very popular. We have the best performing ambulance service in Australia and, importantly, it is the only ambulance service in the country that is free. If people need help in the outback or if they need a helicopter, it is free and it will stay free under a Labor government. In other states it can cost people as much as \$7,000. Federally, Labor has helped to make medicines cheaper and they are also making it easier to see a bulk-billing doctor. We are also supporting pharmacies so they can do more to help with frontline health care. We are also prioritising mental health services for Queenslanders with our mental health levy.

In contrast, what is the LNP approach to health care in hospitals? The LNP sacked thousands of nurses and frontline health workers when they were in power. They sold off and closed down Queensland Health facilities like the Barrett Adolescent Centre that we heard the member for Inala speak about today in her first speech. We have heard the opposition spokesperson for health call Queensland Health workers duds and we have heard the member for Burnett attack the pay and entitlements of health workers online, claiming they want unrealistic employee entitlements. I am not sure what the member thinks is unrealistic. Perhaps it is sick pay, overtime, maternity leave or night shift payments. The LNP will have to come clean on what they think 'unrealistic expectations' are.

The LNP do not care about services like hospitals. To those opposite it is just a line item and an expense to be cut. On this side of the House we believe in building and providing the services that we need to maintain our great Queensland lifestyle to support the health of our friends and family and our fellow Queenslanders.