




Speech By
Melissa McMahon

MEMBER FOR MACALISTER

Record of Proceedings, 11 September 2024

MOTION

General Practitioners

 **Mrs McMAHON** (Macalister—ALP) (6.08 pm): I rise to speak against the motion before the House because I know that if there is one group of people Queenslanders do not trust when it comes to their health and managing their health system it is those opposite. Health workers do not trust those on the opposite side because they know exactly how many of them were sacked from our health system in Queensland.

Ms Pease interjected.

Mrs McMAHON: I take that interjection. Closing the Moreton Bay unit and closing the Barrett centre—that is the legacy of those opposite when it comes to health.

Do members know whom I trust when it comes to talking about the health of Queenslanders? I actually trust the GPs. I will take advice from the GPs about what it takes to improve the health of Queenslanders. I advise those many people watching at home that yesterday at Parliament House we were visited by the RACGP. They came along and gave MPs the opportunity to have a check-up. Many members on both sides of the chamber took advantage of that opportunity and had some really good conversations with the GPs who were here.

For those who are not familiar with it, it is quite a common practice for groups to come to parliament and speak to members, particularly in the lead-up to an election, because they have the opportunity to talk to us about their priorities for the upcoming election. They had even, so conveniently, prepared a document about the Queensland election in 2024. These are the priorities for Queensland GPs for the upcoming election. Do you know what? They are putting patients first, and that is what we intend to do. They are important priorities for Queensland in this upcoming election, and I am more than happy to take a lot of this information on board.

I had some very good conversations with Dr Bayliss. The RACGP want to grow and sustain the GP workforce. That is something that we want to do. We absolutely support our GPs. Do you know what else is important to them? Cutting red tape to fast-track access to essential treatments.

Mr Bleijie: Rob van Manen. That's what's important to Macalister.

Mrs McMAHON: Those opposite are not interested in hearing about the health of Queensland, only whatever slogan they can fit in to this debate. Let's talk about the health priorities of Queensland and what the GPs want from both sides of politics. This is what they want from both sides of politics in 2024—

Mr Bleijie: And Rob van Manen will deliver for them.

Mrs McMAHON:—and it is probably just not talking over the top of other people. They actually listened, and I did too.

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr Smith interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Member for Bundaberg and member for Kawana, cease your quarrelling across the chamber.

Mrs McMAHON: They want politicians to listen to GPs to create a smarter healthcare system, so that is what I will do. I will listen to my GP. I am a huge fan of my family GP. I have been going there for 10 years. When speaking to these GPs yesterday, not once did they talk about payroll tax.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Order! Pause the clock. Resume your seat, please, member. I have good news, members: the warnings reset at 6 pm so those people who were on a warning are off a warning but, member for Kawana, you are on a warning.

Mrs McMAHON: Let's look at the priorities of GPs in this upcoming election. The priorities are about the health of Queenslanders and not about grandstanding, misrepresenting and running scare campaigns. I am proud of our commitment to the health system here in Queensland. I am proud to be the lucky recipient of a satellite hospital in my electorate. After speaking to the GPs, I know that that will be a godsend for our local constituents and those who would otherwise go to Logan Hospital because it is hard to see a GP. Our GPs are caring for our community and they are putting the health of Queenslanders first. Their priority is the health of Queenslanders and their patients, not sloganeering or running fear campaigns. Let's put the health of Queensland first—let's put the patients first and the LNP last.

(Time expired)