




Speech By
Nikki Boyd

MEMBER FOR PINE RIVERS

Record of Proceedings, 12 December 2024

PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Newman LNP Government, Performance

 **Ms BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (2.42 pm): It is wonderful to be back in this chamber for the 58th Parliament. I have been reflecting upon what motivated me to first put my hand up to run as a candidate in my community. In 2012 I was sitting around at the table at the Prince Charles Hospital as a spreadsheet from the Newman LNP government was tabled that had cuts on it. Cuts that resulted in funding being stripped out of that hospital and that region; cuts that directly impacted on workers who lost their jobs; and services that were no longer delivered in my community. The LNP under Campbell Newman cut 4,400 workers. The architect of those cuts—the designer of those cuts—is now this state's health minister. This state's health minister cut 1,800 nurses and midwives. I raise this because they are at it again. It was the very first thing that the failed treasurer under Campbell Newman came in here and did and it has been green-lighted by those opposite, particularly the Premier. The Premier said there would be no cuts to health workers, yet here we are in this place in the first full sitting week uncovering the fact that the new LNP government has, in fact, has axed Labor's workforce attraction scheme. This is an important scheme that delivered 1,320 health workers to Queensland Health.

Ms Bates interjected.

Ms BOYD: I take the interjections from the member for Mudgeeraba—the very member who in this place, on the opposite benches, called Queensland Health workers in Queensland 'duds'. You know it is true.

Ms BATES: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I find those comments offensive and I ask them to be withdrawn.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Martin): Member for Pine Rivers, the member has taken personal offence, will you withdraw?

Ms BOYD: I withdraw. Around 73 per cent of these frontline workers were delivering high-quality health care in one of Queensland's regional, rural or remote regions. We hear a lot from those opposite who are now talking about being representatives for the regions and rural Queensland. Why are they supporting this cut, I ask? Of course we know that we need more health workers in rural, remote and regional Queensland—not less. Even the AMA has called this scheme out and condemned it and said they support its expansion—not the cuts that this health minister and this LNP government is delivering. We know there is a global health workforce shortage right now. Queensland needs to step up. I hear a lot of interjections from the new finance minister opposite. She called for more investment to be made in Queensland's health system and is now sitting there supporting cuts.