




Speech By  
**Shane Knuth**

**MEMBER FOR HILL**

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### **HEALTH AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 2)**

 **Mr KNUTH** (Hill—KAP) (4.55 pm): I rise to give my contribution on the Health and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. The last time I spoke about nurse-to-patient and midwife-to-patient ratios was back in 2016 when the Hospital and Health Boards (Safe Nurse-to-Patient and Midwife-to-Patient Ratios) Amendment Bill was being debated. This bill amended the Hospital and Health Boards Act 2011 to enable the government to legislate a nurse-to-patient ratio which is the minimum number of nurses and midwives working on a particular ward, unit or department in relation to the number of patients they care for. However, according to the explanatory notes of the Health and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, it clearly states—

Minimum midwife-to-patient ratios have not yet been implemented in Queensland as the wards that midwives work on are not prescribed under the Hospital and Health Boards Regulation.

This means that it has taken seven years for the government to action this. I was excited about this back in 2016 as my mother was a midwife and two of my daughters are nurses. However, I and my fellow KAP members are extremely disappointed that something that is very crucial—to get nurse-to-patient and midwife-to-patient ratios right—has been bundled together with the changes to the Termination of Pregnancy Act.

As everyone knows, the KAP were strongly against the introduction of the abortion bill in 2018 because all life is sacred and the bill devalued life. We supported—and still support—the sanctity of life by speaking against and strongly objecting to the termination of pregnancy bill. That view has not changed. Now we find the government is introducing legislation that will allow qualified nurse practitioners and midwives to perform medical terminations. In other words, they are making it even easier to terminate life.

To make matters worse, the government has announced \$40 million towards making it easier to terminate life. It is amazing that we can find—we know this in rural and regional Queensland—\$40 million to terminate a life, but the government cannot find \$40 million to save lives by putting dialysis units in remote regional centres across our state. I cannot support this bill.