




Speech By
Hon. Shannon Fentiman

MEMBER FOR WATERFORD

Record of Proceedings, 16 April 2024

MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Health System

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance Services and Minister for Women) (2.10 pm): The Leader of the Opposition has talked about giving up. He has completely given up having any ideas, any policies or any solutions for the challenges that Queensland is facing. Talk about giving up. He talks about a Queensland health system under pressure but does not have one idea for helping those frontline staff that he says he wants to listen to.

It is absolutely disgraceful for the Leader of the Opposition to come in here and talk about the tragic death of Wayne Irving and the clinical review into his death that the HHS has been working on with the family but not actually say what the clinical review found. The clinical review confirmed that an earlier diagnosis or treatment may not have changed the clinical outcome for Mr Irving.

Ms Bates interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Order! Member for Mudgeeraba!

Ms Bates interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Pause the clock. The House will come to order. Member for Mudgeeraba, I was repeatedly calling you. You are warned under the standing orders.

Ms FENTIMAN: Mr Irving suffered from an abdominal aortic aneurysm—an uncommon but highly fatal condition. The review, however, did find that the Ipswich Hospital could have done much more to make his last moments far more comfortable and also could have provided services for his family, such as social workers. It made five recommendations. It recommended updating policies around the administration of opiates to patients on the ramp, improving social work availability after hours, using the case as a case study in triage training and introducing a medical commander and ramp nurse role, which this government did last year, with an immediate injection of \$20 million into that very busy hospital. I want to thank Wayne Irving's family for the work they have done with the Ipswich Hospital and the West Moreton Hospital and Health Service. Their advocacy has been impressive.

This government is actually putting solutions and dollars on the table. We have not just provided a medical commander role for Ipswich Hospital; they have been rolled out across the state because frontline doctors and nurses have told us that that will help with the pressures that we are seeing on our emergency departments. For the Leader of the Opposition to come in here and say on every measure that Queensland Health is worse than the years before is absolutely untrue, and I will be writing to the Speaker about his misleading the parliament.

On every measure, the Queensland health system is doing better than every other state and, on almost every measure, we are doing better than we were this time last year. We lead the nation when it comes to elective surgery. Our long waits have reduced by 43 per cent. Our ED seen-in-time is better.

Our 24-hour stays are down. Clinically recommended timeframes in terms of when patients are seen is improving. Thousands more patients are off the stretcher within 30 minutes because of the solutions we have put on the table.

What has the Leader of the Opposition said he will do? 'We are going to put doctors and nurses back in charge.' The doctors and nurses are the ones who have suggested the medical commander roles, the nurses working with our paramedics and all of the other initiatives, like our satellite hospitals. Those opposite have never supported the satellite hospitals and are probably planning to sell them off if they get into government. Those satellite hospitals are already doing what we said they would do—that is, reducing the pressure on our emergency departments.

The other thing that is under threat by the Leader of the Opposition is our health big build. How many health infrastructure projects did they do when they were in government? Zero. With the unprecedented demand that we are seeing in our hospitals, how would we be going with the zero extra beds? We on this side of the House have a health big build delivering the infrastructure, new hospitals, expanded hospitals and more beds, and we are also employing thousands more frontline staff.

An opposition member interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Gregory, you are warned under the standing orders. I have attempted to get your—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: My deep apologies. I mistook the Western Queensland accent. Member for Callide, you are warned under the standing orders.

Ms FENTIMAN: How much pressure would our system be under right now if those opposite had had their way, with no beds and no infrastructure and having sacked the nurses, the doctors and the allied healthcare professionals? We would have no satellite hospitals. We would have no mental health care levy, which is absolutely boosting frontline staff and resources to those suffering mental ill health in this state. It would be a complete disaster. It is all at risk if the Leader of the Opposition gets to be premier because those opposite have absolutely not one plan for health and we know they will cut, sack and sell because that is what they do.