



Speech By  
**Hon. Shannon Fentiman**


**MEMBER FOR WATERFORD**

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Record of Proceedings, 21 May 2024

**MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST**

**Miles Labor Government, Performance**

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance Services and Minister for Women) (2.10 pm): Once again we hear the LNP saying anything to undermine the public's confidence in the work of our frontline doctors and nurses. In particular, for the Leader of the Opposition to come in here today and say that a gentleman lost his life on an ambulance ramp was deliberately misleading and wrong. In fact, as I have outlined to the House today, that gentleman was cared for in the ED and ICU and was receiving treatment for about 11 hours at the hospital. As I have repeatedly said today, the family of the gentleman who tragically passed away has said they are distressed by the coverage, yet the Leader of the Opposition does not seem to care about the family's wishes and instead chooses to score political points on this issue.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Order, members.

**Ms FENTIMAN:** He needs to do the responsible thing: give the family the privacy they need to grieve and let the clinical experts do their job in reviewing the case. The Leader of the Opposition says he wants to put doctors and nurses back in charge. I say: let them do their job; let them investigate this case. We know that the Leader of the Opposition will always cherrypick and criticise our health data.

Not once have those opposite congratulated our frontline health staff who have seen an extra 23,000 people in the ED. Compared to last year, more of them are being seen on time. Not once have they congratulated our staff for seeing eight in 10 patients in time. How many times have they congratulated our staff for the record elective surgery here in Queensland, for reducing the long-wait surgery list by 38 per cent or for getting 4,200 more patients off the stretcher within 30 minutes? How many times have they congratulated our staff?

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Members on my left, the Leader of the Opposition was heard in relative silence. I would expect that courtesy to be extended. I will start to warn people.

**Ms FENTIMAN:** We know fundamentally that those opposite do not care about the success of our staff. We know that when they were in government they sacked thousands of them. We know that their sole focus is on tearing down our health system. We know this because they have not one single policy, not one single idea—

**Dr Robinson** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The member for Oodgeroo is warned.

**Ms FENTIMAN:**—and not one single dollar committed to improving our health system. It is not just me saying this. The Leader of the Opposition's own mentor, Campbell Newman, has offered his insight into the Leader of the Opposition's statements about ambulance ramping. He said—

'How will you do this?

Magic wand?

Mystic incantations?

Or will you implement the same measures we put in place in the period 2012 to 2015?'

I cannot believe I am saying this, but I agree with Campbell Newman. Tell us, Leader of the Opposition: how are you going to magic up this wonderful improvement in ambulance ramping? How are you going to choose between the magic wand and sacking 4,000 workers again? But he will not. All he cares about is his slick slogans and not being up-front and truthful with the people of Queensland.

Today I was pleased to join the Chief Health Officer to talk about an important health issue and that is to make recommendations on the use of social media for young people. Those recommendations include limiting access to social media for children aged under 14 and closely supporting teenagers over the age of 14 as they begin to use social media. As I said this morning, the data is alarming. We have seen a tripling of self-harm among young girls aged under 14 and a doubling for those aged 15 to 19 since 2008 when the first smartphone was released onto the market. Now more than ever is the time for us to have difficult conversations.

The Chief Health Officer's recommendations are very important because parents are crying out for advice and tools to be able to have those conversations with their teenagers. We all know we are busier than ever and those conversations are difficult, so making it easier for parents to access toolkits and resources is critical. It is also why our government has the biggest investment in mental health support, particularly youth mental health support, in the state's history and that is only because of our mental health levy; the mental health levy that those opposite did not support and do not support. Their record on mental health was to be the first government to cut mental health funding and close the Barrett Adolescent Centre. We know how so many vulnerable families felt when that closed.

*(Time expired)*