




Speech By
Hon. Tim Nicholls

MEMBER FOR CLAYFIELD

Record of Proceedings, 28 November 2024

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Health System; Measles

 **Hon. TJ NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (10.17 am): Mr Speaker, again, congratulations to you on your elevation to the high office of Speaker.

The Crisafulli government's Easier Access to Health Services plan was developed after 39 health crisis town halls were held the length and breadth of Queensland. Hundreds of Queenslanders shared their stories about our health and hospital system and the failures that they were experiencing under a tired Labor government. I want to particularly pay tribute to the member for Mudgeeraba for her diligence and hard work as the shadow health minister in driving and listening to the complaints—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I will have order before we proceed.

Mr NICHOLLS: She did more as the shadow minister than the three failed Labor health ministers did in a decade. More people, more investment and more services are being delivered because of the shadow health minister's unrelenting commitment to the health and wellbeing of Queenslanders.

Mr Bailey: Couldn't do the job.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: We will just have a little bit of calm, please.

Mr NICHOLLS: I take the interjection from the member for Miller. At least she did not exclude herself and quit from taking the job, member for Miller, like you did a year ago! Thank you very much. We listened. We listened to the doctors—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr NICHOLLS: Mr Speaker, can I say it is wonderful to be back on this side of the House—just how wonderful those on that side of the House are going to find out over the next four years!

We listened to the doctors, we listened to the nurses and we listened to the paramedics who were on the front line, and we are continuing to do so. We also listened to the Queenslanders who have tragically lost loved ones because of ramping—people like Lauren Hansford and Barbara Irving, who lost their father and husband, Wayne, and who are still suffering loss, and we will be doing some things to help them along the line. We will be helping people and listening to people who lost loved ones because ambulances did not arrive in time, and we will continue listening to Queenslanders who are waiting for the change that a Crisafulli government will bring.

Under Labor, Queenslanders have suffered the worst ambulance ramping numbers in Australia. There is a record long waitlist for elective surgery and nearly 300,000 Queenslanders are waiting to see a specialist. Queenslanders are also paying more for Labor's health failure. Capital projects and infrastructure costs have ballooned, with more than \$6 billion in cost blowouts across the state. Of the

15 projects underway, I am advised that 13 will have delayed delivery or are at risk of delayed delivery. Under Labor, Queenslanders were paying more and getting less and getting it later than was ever promised.

We will heal Labor's health crisis by diagnosing the issues from within our health system. We will treat the causes and we will deliver long-term solutions to cure those problems. I can advise the House that this work is well underway. I have delivered on the commitment set to me by the Premier in the first month. We have instructed Queensland Health to begin the rollout of the health plan to reduce ambulance ramping and stabilise those waitlists. I have directed Queensland Health to prepare for the publication of transparent, real-time hospital data. In doing so, we will provide Queenslanders with the truth about what is happening in our hospitals in real time, not when it fits Labor's politically inspired narrative. I recently visited the Eight Mile Plains health facility. I announced the new website will be launched by February—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! We will have silence.

Mr NICHOLLS: I announced the new website platform will be launched in February 2025. It will include key metrics across emergency demand, capacity and waiting time for Queensland's 25 largest hospitals—something that Labor could not, would not and failed to do. They could not even tell Queenslanders what was happening in their emergency wards. The real-time reporting will make the health system more transparent and help Queenslanders make informed choices about their care.

I can also update the House on some other positive progress against our commitments in our health plan. Work is underway to assess current staffing levels across all of regional Queensland's maternity services. We are consulting with clinicians on the most appropriate name for Queensland's satellite hospitals. Unlike the member for Murrumba, we do not have a staff member employed hitting a keyboard thousands of times to change the name of the Lady Cilento children's hospital to the Children's Hospital. We know that story all too well. We are talking to real clinicians and real people who use the service who want to see positive change, not a political program.

We are also identifying the most appropriate sites for nine new CT machines and six MRI machines to provide faster diagnostics and reduce the need for patients to travel to another facility. They will be delivered, as promised in our election commitments, to Charleville and Ayr. They are guaranteed. We are on track to achieve all of these commitments in our first 100 days. Queenslanders deserve a world-class health system they can rely on no matter where they live, and the Crisafulli government will fix Labor's mess, end the cost blowouts and deliver to Queenslanders the health services they deserve.

I think it is also important before I close that I confirm that, as reported, a patient presented to the QEII Jubilee Hospital earlier this week and tested positive for measles, which, as we know, is highly contagious. The patient is believed to have contracted measles overseas. Metro South Health is undertaking contact tracing in accordance with the public health requirements and has offered measles vaccinations to staff and high-risk contacts who are current inpatients at that hospital. More details are available on the Metro South Health website. Again, this case highlights the need for ongoing vigilance about communicable disease in Queensland.