




Speech By
Hon. Tim Nicholls

MEMBER FOR CLAYFIELD

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MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

ALP Opposition, Performance

 **Hon. TJ NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (2.29 pm): What a litany of excuses from the former failed Harvard scholar. We all remember the member for McConnell's claims to be a Harvard scholar and her rewriting of the history books. That did not take long. We remember the member for McConnell, who told us back in 2016 that youth unemployment will always be with us. Now she makes excuse after excuse for her failure to act over three years to do something reasonable and rational like appoint the Olympic authority they legislated. There has been a litany of excuses. We heard them from the doctor, who is only good at cooking the books; we heard them from the treasurer, who cannot do anything except fail to explain why Standard & Poor's is now looking at a downgrade. They cannot explain how a fiscal deficit came about. They cannot explain how they ramped up taxes when they said 26 times after the last election there were going to be no new taxes or increases. Is it no wonder the people of Queensland spoke so loudly on 26 October.

Here is a message for the Labor Party: you lost. You do not have the right to come in here and say that the people of Queensland got it wrong, which is what those opposite are trying to say. They are trying to say that the people of Queensland got it wrong on 26 October. Nothing could be further from the truth. Queenslanders are paying for Labor's failures in the health portfolio nearly every day with the worst ambulance ramping numbers in Australia, greater than 40 per cent. We remember when the member for Waterford said it would be down to 28 per cent within a year of her appointment.

Mr Minnikin: How did that go?

Mr NICHOLLS: She got an extra six months, a 50 per cent period of grace, and it just went up. It kept going up. In fact, we have three of the four worst health ministers in Queensland's history sitting in this House right across the way. We would have four of them except the member for Redcliffe was moved out of the position by the former premier, who was moved out of the position by Gary Bullock, who put the current opposition leader in his position. That is the arcane world of the Labor Party. There was a record waitlist for elective surgery of over 64,000 Queenslanders, nearly 300,000 Queenslanders waiting to see a specialist and capital blowouts. Capital blowouts are a significant issue, and I have already announced and provided information on Labor's \$6 billion in blowouts across the program.

Imagine my surprise when the member for Miller wrote to me and asked whether he could visit some hospitals. I am a very reasonable person, so I thought 'why not?' and I said, 'Yes, please go and visit hospitals.' Lo and behold, I found that he had posted a picture of himself—he is wearing a very trendy shiny shirt and unbranded hardhat—at the Toowoomba Hospital. He says, 'I'm happy to be in Toowoomba today inspecting the new \$1.3 billion hospital built by the Miles government.' The only problem is that it is \$1.98 billion. I am happy to table a slightly modified article as a bit of fun.

Tabled paper: Document, undated, titled 'Fentiman's blowouts up to Bailey's standards' [254](#).

I wondered why he would be there. Why would the member for Miller post that when he knows it is wrong after I had already announced it? I had already said it by that stage of the proceedings. I thought, 'Let's just think back a bit on history.' What is the member for Miller responsible for that might have blown out over time? The minister had a lot of fun with him. He used to call him 'Blowout Bailey'. I would not do such a thing. I wondered if he was considering what tips he could pick up from the former minister for health, who presided over the biggest blowout, \$6 billion, in the capital expansion program. Of that \$6 billion, \$1.3 billion is for projects that are already underway where they left things out. They left things out such as a cardiac catheterisation laboratory and birthing suite at Toowoomba Hospital.

A government member: Who needs those?

Mr NICHOLLS: Who needs those, exactly! The member for Waterford said, 'They're not missing; they just now need expanding.' We describe a hospital pharmacy as a critical function, not an expansion.