




Speech By
Hon. Tim Nicholls

MEMBER FOR CLAYFIELD

Record of Proceedings, 11 December 2024

MOTION

Women and Girls' Health Strategy

 **Hon. TJ NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (5.35 pm):
I move the following amendment—

That all words after 'this House' be omitted and the following inserted:

1. notes the former Labor government's failure to properly fund the Women and Girls' Health Strategy.
2. notes the former Labor government failed Queensland women in relation to:
 - (a) Queensland's DNA lab
 - (b) the delivery of maternity services in regional Queensland
 - (c) the availability of 'rape kits'
 - (d) the youth crime crisis
3. condemns the former Labor government for their failure to keep Queensland women and girls safe.

I have just listened to the cry of pain of an opposition leader with nowhere to go—the cry of pain of a union installed puppet who has been deserted by the Queensland Council of Unions. The Queensland Council of Unions lauded the LNP government for the motion that passed in this House yesterday. Jacqueline King from the Queensland Council of Unions said, 'Tick, what a good job.' The opposition leader is a puppet of the union movement.

There are many puppets over there of the union movement. It does not matter if they are the United Workers Union, the CFMEU, the ETU—the member is not the ETU anymore, that is right, I forgot about that. It does not matter if they are the AWU—they do not have the numbers in this place. It does not matter if they are the AMWU—they do not have the numbers in this place either. Those opposite are all puppets of the union movement.

On this side of the House, we encourage people to have a voice. We do not scuttle into caucus rooms out of sight of the cameras, nor do we scuttle out of our caucus rooms out of sight of the cameras. We have party rooms where everyone is encouraged to have their say.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: I recognise these debates can be interesting at times but that was way out of line.

Mr NICHOLLS: The Women and Girls' Health Strategy acknowledges that the health challenges and outcomes women experience are different from those of men, as are their experiences and the barriers in navigating the health system. The strategy contains many laudable objectives such as co-designing services, collecting more and better data and having better linkages to the primary and tertiary health systems. These are all worthy objectives and something this government will work

towards achieving; however, there is only one problem—earlier this year, when the then Labor government released the strategy, the then premier and now opposition leader said—

I'm proud to lead a government that champions women, their experiences and the solutions that will break down barriers now, and into the future.

He did not fund the future. There was no money there. It is an interesting concept 'now and into the future'. It sounds great. There was only one problem: there was no money in the budget to fund it.

They told the public that their health strategy was funded with \$4 billion, but that \$4 billion has been spent another three times. There is now \$12 billion of commitments but only \$4 billion of money in the budget. Only Labor can spend three times more money that they have actually put in the budget to be spent. We have seen this before. They are putting at the risk the Women and Girls' Health Strategy because the organisations that rely on the funding are now desperate for funding that is no longer there. There is a funding black hole of \$12 billion which is imperilling the delivery of this service.

That is not all. They have failed to deliver. We heard the Leader of the Opposition talk about women's health services. What about their failure around the delivery of birthing services? What about the closure of maternity wards in the member for Callide's electorate? We have heard him talk about that for four years now. They failed to fund them.

Our 100-day plan will deliver a world-class health system. We have already started on the health plan to ensure there are gynaecologists and obstetricians available for regional Queensland, which those opposite were not able to fund. Despite all their protestations, we have seen the rural GP workforce go backwards in the last 10 years. The Crisafulli LNP government has a plan for health services, including women's and girls' health services. We will deliver and every dollar in the budget will be spent on them.

(Time expired)