




Speech By
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 **Ms ASIF** (Sandgate—ALP) (5.28 pm): This estimates process has exposed that the LNP government is more interested in political theatrics than delivering real outcomes for Queenslanders. What we have witnessed was not the fresh start promised by Premier Crisafulli but a showcase of disarray and broken promises. When it comes to health we know the LNP has a history of cuts and cover-ups. As expected, the Crisafulli government is no different. The most damning revelation from these hearings is how the government has completely misplaced its priorities. The LNP government has spent \$1.67 million in promoting their so-called Hospital Rescue Plan while allocating just \$675,000 for flu vaccination campaigns. That is nearly three times more on self-promotion than on promoting flu vaccinations to people who need them in what experts say is going to be one of the worst Queensland flu seasons.

When it comes to vaccines, the LNP says it is a decision between a person and their doctor. Funnily enough, that is not what they say when it comes to women's reproductive health. I have never once heard them say that a women's right to choose is a decision between a woman and her doctor. I say this to the minister: instead of pandering to the right-wing anti-vaxxers, let's solve Queensland's hospital crisis and not make it worse. However, we know that this government cares more about votes and pointscoring than actually improving the lives of Queenslanders.

Nurses are the backbone of our health system. They look after us when we are most vulnerable. They work long hours, day and night, and in many cases they prioritise the people they care for over their own families. How does this government look after them? How does it repay them? It does so by refusing to come to the table to talk about the pay increases that they deserve. The government is refusing to come to the table to talk about better working conditions. We need more nurses to meet the growing demand of our health services. By not improving the conditions of those working in our current system, we risk poor retention and we disincentivise those young people who may be thinking of coming into the health sector.

While the demand is rising for additional health services on the north side, unfortunately all we see from this government are false promises and no delivery. We have seen elective surgery waitlists blow out as almost 6,000 patients are waiting longer than clinically recommended. The government also seems to be ignoring all the cries from our local community about the delivery of the Redcliffe Hospital expansion. The complete lack of transparency around hospital capital projects is deeply concerning. In the budget we see health upgrade projects that are vague and without timelines, and that includes the Redcliffe Hospital upgrade. It is a prime example of what the government is not delivering on. People in my electorate have been left in the dark and have no idea about what is happening to the hospital that they use. Without timelines or clear plans, how can the government be accountable for its promises?

The Crisafulli government is back to doing what the LNP is used to: scrapping projects and wasting time and resources while developing a so-called plan that so far is only seen and talked about in advertising. There has been no action on it. Without beds, the wait times will continue to grow and ambulance ramping will only worsen.

Queensland is fortunate to be home to some of the world's most remarkable natural landmarks. We have a responsibility to ensure that those places are protected. I was disappointed but not surprised to see that the LNP does not seem to share this view. This LNP government has demonstrated a complete lack of vision when it comes to our climate targets. During the estimates, when asked about emissions reductions the Minister for the Environment deflected to the Treasurer and was unable to commit to net zero. The fact is that this government simply does not care, so it was not surprising when at the LNP convention over the weekend LNP members voted to abandon the net zero targets.

This estimates hearing revealed that the government has chosen secrecy over transparency, self-promotion over health services and political gains over accountability. It has no vision for better access to health care for our state, just as it has no vision for the environment or for Queensland's future. Instead of sitting back and taking credit for the former Labor government's work, the government needs to get serious about the issues that are impacting people in our community. Queensland deserves better than this government and what it is offering.