



Speech By
Bryson Head

MEMBER FOR CALLIDE

Record of Proceedings, 27 August 2025

MOTION

Chief Health Officer, Appointment

 **Mr HEAD** (Callide—LNP) (6.05 pm): I am happy to come into this House any day of the week and talk about holding governments to account when it comes to health in Queensland. It is great that I have a fantastic relationship with the Minister for Health, Tim Nicholls. He is working incredibly hard fixing the very long list of failures from those opposite.

Mr Krause interjected.

Mr HEAD: I will take the interjection from the member for Scenic Rim. Unfortunately, I do not have time to talk about all of the failures, but I will talk about a few. In terms of the Moura aged-care expansion project for the wonderful community of Moura, the previous Labor government got money from the federal government to build that facility back in 2019. They had over five years to get shovels in the ground. People would have thought building the aged-care expansion when the federal government already had money on the table for those opposite to do it would not have been too hard a task, but Labor failed to get that project moving. They had nearly 10 years in government. By contrast, in 10 short months, under Minister Nicholls and the Crisafulli LNP government, shovels are in the ground to deliver on that project for the Moura community.

Another failure that we inherited is the crippling doctor shortage in Queensland.

Mr Smith: The same with Bilo.

Mr HEAD: I will take that interjection. Do not worry, member for Bundaberg, I will get to that and talk about another Labor failure. If the member wants me to talk about more Labor failures, I will happily talk about them all night.

We talk about the critical doctor shortage. I know that the Moura community asks about this. There has been some more stability there in recent times, but the permanent doctor has some leave at the moment and that community has been without a doctor. That permanent doctor is entitled to some leave. Under Labor, that community did not have a permanent doctor for many years. Under the Crisafulli government they have had the most stability they have had in a very long time. Across the North Burnett we have inherited crippling shortages.

Mr Power interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Logan, you are now warned.

Mr HEAD: Another community that has often come to me about doctor shortages is the community of Gin Gin. Again, we see more stability in that community now than we have seen for a long time. We know that with the problems we inherited we have a long way to go before we get to where we need to be. All of these communities deserve permanent doctors. I know that that is what the minister supports and is working hard to deliver.

The biggest disgrace of those opposite in the near decade they were in government was the maternity crisis in Queensland. We saw 37 maternity wards closed or placed on bypass by those opposite. That is 37 across the state. There were many across Callide. The most recent was the bypass at Chinchilla. They said it was a bypass, but it was a couple of thousand days under their watch. I would say that a bypass for a couple of thousand days is not a bypass; it is a closure. This week marks three years of bypass of the Biloela maternity ward, and that is frankly not good enough. That community deserves a maternity ward. We have committed to reopening it. The minister and his team and the CQHHS are working hard.

Those opposite like blaming staff as the only reason for that bypass. The reality was that they did not even have a facility that could support a maternity service because they failed to maintain the facilities at that hospital. They want to blame a lack of staff, but they could not even maintain the hospital. Now we have to upgrade that hospital. We have a renewed surgical theatre and birthing suite there that is now ready to go, so now it can attract staff to Biloela who are needed to reinstate that maternity service. I am going to keep fighting to make sure that commitment is delivered, and I know we will deliver that.

It would be remiss of me to talk about Biloela health without mentioning something incredibly sad for the Biloela community. Dr Richard Tan OAM was a doctor in that community who served for many decades. He passed away yesterday and the community is grieving. He emigrated from Malaysia and studied medicine at UQ. He had medically served Biloela since 1968 until he passed away. He was 84 years of age and was a true champion of rural health. He performed over 10,000 operations and delivered 3,000 babies throughout his career. My thoughts go out to Dominique, the family and the broader Biloela community on Dr Richard Tan's passing.

(Time expired)