



Speech By  
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**MEMBER FOR MANSFIELD**

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## **ADJOURNMENT**

### **Hospitals, Ramping**

 **Ms McMILLAN** (Mansfield—ALP) (9.07 pm): Ambulance ramping in Queensland has hit an historic high. Nearly one in two patients—47.8 per cent—are waiting outside our major hospitals longer than the clinically safe time of 30 minutes. That is far worse than what the LNP themselves once called a health crisis back when they were pointing fingers from opposition. Now the crisis is of their own making.

Premier Crisafulli and his health minister promised that ramping would be under 30 per cent, but less than a year into their term it has blown out to nearly 50 per cent—record highs, a record failure and another broken promise. Why? Because this government scrapped Labor's fully funded \$18 billion hospital expansion program—2,200 desperately needed beds across Queensland. Their so-called Hospital Rescue Plan is nothing but an LNP hospital cuts plan in disguise, with no certainty about when new beds will be delivered, which facilities will be built or how they will be funded.

At QEII and the PA—the hospitals my constituents rely on the most—the reality is clear. Labor initiated, funded and commenced the \$619 million QEII expansion—more than 100 new beds, new theatres and a multistorey car park. Labor initiated, funded and commenced the \$748 million PA upgrade—more beds and new cancer and kidney services.

The only reason the Crisafulli government and Minister Nicholls did not block these expansions indefinitely, as they did with Prince Charles, Redcliffe, Coomera, Mackay, Townsville and Cairns, is that they were already too far advanced, but still the LNP has delayed them, creating doubt about what will be delivered and when. Meanwhile ramping is at breaking point. QEII, sadly and disgracefully, has the worst rate in Queensland: 70.6 per cent of patients ramped beyond 30 minutes. The PA is at 55.8 per cent.

While our hospitals buckle, the Crisafulli government cuts hours at the Mount Gravatt nurse-led clinic that Labor established to ease pressure on these EDs. Locals praise it. It provides care which is quick, efficient and free. Under this government its hours have been slashed, forcing patients straight back into QEII and PA waiting rooms. Further, the government has axed pill testing, against the advice of every major medical body. The AMA, the RACGP and the Pharmacy Guild all say that pill testing saves lives. Ending it means more overdoses, more preventable tragedies and more people in already overcrowded emergency departments—playing to the far right. The contrast could not be clearer. Labor expands hospitals; the LNP cuts them. Labor delivers beds and services, and the LNP are nothing more than excuses.