




Speech By
Joseph Kelly

MEMBER FOR GREENSLOPES

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MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Health Services

 **Mr J KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (2.46 pm): When Premier David Crisafulli and the LNP say something, it means nothing. I think the QNMU found that out this week. At least, that is the conclusion I drew today when I read their open letter to the *Courier-Mail*, which states—

Mr Crisafulli made this promise to Queensland because he knows it's key to having enough nurses and midwives to provide safe, quality care.

David Crisafulli and the LNP have walked away from their promises to nurses and midwives. I table that letter for the benefit of the House.

Tabled paper: Image, undated, of a letter from the Secretary of the Queensland Nurses and Midwives' Union, Ms Sarah Beaman, to the Premier and Minister for Veterans, Hon. David Crisafulli, the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations, Hon. Jarrod Bleijie, and the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services, Hon. Tim Nicholls, regarding Queensland's nursing and midwifery workforce [281](#).

I stand here proudly as part of the team that delivered safe nurse- and midwife-to-patient ratios. In fact, I stand here as the only nurse in this parliament to have voted for those laws.

Hope over fear: we all much remember that slogan. When I speak to parents of teens who are transitioning, they have another slogan they would like the LNP to adopt: evidence over ideology. Cutting the services at the gender clinic has to be one of the cruellest cuts. I met a mum and her teen at a clinic on the day that the health minister made the decision to cut those services. They had been waiting for an appointment for months. They were sent home and have been offered a quarterly psychology appointment instead. The mum and the teen were devastated. The impact on the teen has been immediate and severe. The mum asked me to pass on to the House the message that she would rather have a live son than a dead daughter. That is how serious this is.

Was this cut based on evidence? I could not get a straight answer from the Health director-general yesterday in a committee hearing. While it is very normal to review clinical practice and update it based on the latest evidence, it is not normal to stop a treatment while that is occurring. That might occur if there is evidence of serious safety concerns, but the Health director-general would speak only in generalities and gave no specific evidence of any harms to any young people who are on this form of treatment in Queensland, so I guess the decision was based on ideology and not evidence.

However, the Health director-general did answer a few other questions that we had for him. He noted that unfunded health commitments were his biggest concern. I wonder what is being prepared for the chopping block. Is Labor's hospital big build facing the chop? How will you fix ramping if you do not deliver more hospital beds? We have already done all the heavy lifting in the Queensland Ambulance Service: employing more paramedics and patient transport officers; building more ambulance stations; providing more vehicles; guaranteeing funding for LifeFlight for the next 10 years; establishing transfer nurses, which you folks want to cut; and setting up medical support hubs and the virtual ED, which every QAS officer I meet raves about.

In order to fix ramping, more beds need to be built. The director-general confirmed cabinet is considering the Sangster report, which reviewed the health infrastructure program. What is at risk? Perhaps the member for Bundaberg should tell his community not to get too excited about a new hospital. I wonder if the member for Toowoomba North's mate with the money from the southside will take away his hospital. Remember, that is the one he bellowed about over and over again at a million decibels for 10 years in here. What about the member for Coomera? When he was not pursuing his interest in amateur photography, he was in this very chamber bellowing about hospitals. Is his hospital safe from the Deputy Premier, the bloke who really seems to be running the party?

There was good news for the member for Redcliffe yesterday in the committee. Queensland Health confirmed that the rumours she has been spreading about the new hospital and the car park not going ahead are absolutely false. That is good news, yet her electorate might be the only one on that side of the House that actually gets some completed infrastructure. The Townsville University Hospital, the Cairns surgical centre, the Mackay Hospital expansion and the Prince Charles Hospital—are all these projects under threat? When the member for Mackay makes his next exciting video, we might find out the answer to that.

Let's be clear: in order to fix ramping, more beds need to be built and more infrastructure needs to be invested in. Not all of our big build was about fixing ramping. The Queensland Cancer Centre would have had 150 beds at a cancer excellence and research centre. That would have put us on par with Peter MacCallum in Melbourne and the Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York City. I seriously hope the Sangster report does not take the centre away from the people of Queensland.

As with the hours of the nurse-led clinics, as with pill testing, as with the gender clinic, I suspect that, if cabinet releases the Sangster report, the executive summary will contain just one word—'cuts'. I suspect it will be somewhat out of character that when David Crisafulli and the LNP say 'cuts' they will mean it!