



Speech By  
**Joseph Kelly**


**MEMBER FOR GREENSLOPES**

---

Record of Proceedings, 12 June 2025

**PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT**

**Crisafulli LNP Government, Performance; Nurses and Midwives, Wages and Conditions**

 **Mr JKELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (2.19 pm): I look forward to the member for Burnett joining the member for Bundaberg in campaigning against the impending toll on the Burnett Bridge. No doubt that is coming.

Apparently, the Premier does what he says, he says what he does, he means what he says, he walks the talk and so on and so forth. We have heard it all before. He said he would put hope ahead of fear but, when it came to shutting down the treaty process, which was something that he supported, he crushed the hopes of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and anybody who supports reconciliation and treaty in this state. Of course, there is not much hope when you are racing around shutting down renewable energy projects faster than you can say 'climate change is real'.

The Premier was going to govern with accountability and transparency. Remember that one? We saw that on full display last night when, on the back of Jack's Law, they disgracefully rammed through laws to let councils toll roads. His deputy thinks smashing the integrity of the Redistribution Commission is such a joke that he joked about naming a stadium after John Sosso. He promised to listen to the experts but, apparently, not if they oppose the far right of his party on things like pill testing and gender treatment. However, that is not the end of the promises the Premier has made.

On 11 October 2024, the then opposition leader and now Premier promised that he would maintain nation-leading wages and conditions for nurses and midwives. The QNMU is calling for fair pay, not just for themselves but because fair pay saves lives. Without it we lose nurses and midwives and that is very bad for patients. Every day over 300 nursing shifts are not filled, and that is going to get worse if the government does not start to seriously listen to the members of the Queensland Nurses and Midwives' Union.

According to the QNMU, fewer nurses and midwives mean more patients die. It is really that simple and it is that serious. Instead of the nation-leading wages and conditions they promised, the LNP government is offering less than other states. Queensland cannot afford to lose more nurse and midwives. They are already stretched to the limit. I join with the QNMU in saying that better pay is not just fair; it saves lives. Perhaps this is best expressed by Meg Briffa, a rural midwife, who wrote an open letter to Premier Crisafulli. She said—

Yes, we chose this profession.

But we didn't choose unsafe staffing.

We didn't choose to carry moral injury.

We didn't choose to be stretched so thin that we fear for our patients—and ourselves.

EB12 is not just about wages.

It's about safe ratios, fair workloads, mental health, retention, safety—and survival.

I join with my fellow members of the QNMU in calling on the Premier to honour his commitment to nurses and midwives. There is a simple solution here: Premier Crisafulli can honour his government's commitment to Queensland nurses and midwives by fully funding nation-leading wages and conditions in the June state budget. It is only fair and it will save lives.