



Speech By  
**Rob Molhoek**


**MEMBER FOR SOUTHPORT**

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Record of Proceedings, 15 October 2025

**MOTION**

**White, Ms C**

 **Mr MOLHOEK** (Southport—LNP) (6.20 pm): It goes without saying that our sympathies are with the family of Christine White. They not only lost their mother but are now having their grief exploited within this chamber.

Every week in Queensland, almost 300 people pass through one of our health and hospital services. There are some 100,000-odd employees across the state who work hard—tirelessly and sacrificially—to provide the best possible care they can to Queenslanders. In fact, sadly, just a few weeks ago my nephew passed in the Townsville Hospital. His death has had a massive impact on our family. He was injured at Mount Ravenswood while doing some cattle work. It brings into sharp focus the incredible sacrifice that people in the agricultural sector offer in terms of bringing food to our homes and providing for us across this nation. The funeral in Townsville was a real tribute to him and the family. There were more than 500 people who gathered at Calvary Chapel to say goodbye to Johnno. He was a young man of 42 years of age who, even after being airlifted some six hours after the injury to Townsville Hospital by a chopper that Queensland Health dispatched from Mackay, sadly, a day or two later passed from a seizure. The reality is that people do pass in our hospitals. There are tragic circumstances that are outside the health minister's control and outside the control of hospital workers. I have absolute confidence that the vast majority of people who work within Queensland Health are doing all they can to support Queenslanders.

A few years ago, the member for Gregory invited me to travel with him to Boulia. That was quite an experience. We spent some time at Barcaldine and in Emerald, where my eldest son has served as the district medical officer for a number of years. Then we travelled to Boulia to meet with an Indigenous family, who sadly lost one of their sisters to cancer. They shared the story of how they were unable to get the adequate care and support they needed in Mount Isa and how their sister released herself from hospital in Mount Isa and hopped on a bus all the way to Toowoomba seeking better care. By the time the driver was approaching Toowoomba, she was in such a bad state that the driver arranged to have an ambulance waiting for her so that she could be properly cared for.

I think it is sad that we roll out these stories and people cast aspersions and reflect on the character of our minister. I was so proud of the minister just a few weeks ago when a similar matter was raised in the House. I thought Minister Nicholls handled himself with incredible dignity. I have to say, I would not want to be a health minister for all the tea in China. I have seen it as we have attacked other health ministers over the years, as we have raised issues that sometimes are outside of their control, but I have every confidence, from the time I have spent with Minister Nicholls, that he is doing his absolute best to carry out the responsibilities of his portfolio. In fact, just a few weeks ago I had the pleasure of spending a day with him on the coast as he visited the Gold Coast hospital. The staff were absolutely ecstatic with the time he spent and the patience he exercised in speaking with them and in

valuing them—from the lady on the front counter right through to the head of neurology. I commend Minister Nicholls on the great work he is doing. I remind the House that this should be a place of respect and dignity, not taking cheap shots at people over human tragedy.

*(Time expired)*