



Speech By
Hon. Samuel O'Connor
MEMBER FOR BONNEY

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MOTION

White, Ms C

 **Hon. ST O'CONNOR** (Bonney—LNP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Youth) (6.30 pm): Can I begin, as all members have in the debate on this motion, by extending my deepest condolences to the White family for the devastating loss of their mother, Christine. I thank them for coming to this place to turn their trauma into a search for answers, but, more importantly, to do what they can to improve the system and to make things better so others do not have to experience what they have. It was around the middle of last year when one of my own constituents, David from Biggera Waters, and his partner, Robert, had a six-hour wait for an ambulance and then spent a further two hours ramped at the hospital, waiting for care. These stories matter. I commend the White family for bringing it to the attention of this place.

I am very proud to be the member of parliament who represents the Gold Coast University Hospital. In my own community—one of the fastest growing regions in the nation—we have waited more than a decade for a hospital to be built between GCUH in Southport and the Logan Hospital. The former Labor government completely botched the Coomera Hospital project from day one. They designed it for just 400 beds. They designed it without basic services like pathology and pharmacy. It did not even have an outpatient department. It was infrastructure planning by press release with no follow-through.

Ms FENTIMAN: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member for Bonney is speaking about building hospitals. Given your earlier ruling, I would urge you to bring the member back to the motion.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Bonney, you have the motion in front of you.

Mr O'CONNOR: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I will speak to point 4 of the amendment around Labor's decade of decline that the Crisafulli government is now turning around, including by delivering 600 beds—200 more beds than Labor—in Coomera with day surgery, maternity services, operating theatres and intensive care. That is important. This motion is about ramping. The Gold Coast University Hospital has the busiest emergency department in the nation. Work on the Coomera Hospital is now well underway to make sure that our local health workers do not have to wait another decade for their state government to get its act together.

Right across Queensland we are putting our money where Labor's excuses were. We have delivered a record health budget and our Hospital Rescue Plan. The amendment talks about transparency. Queenslanders deserve that in their health system. They deserve a government that is up-front with them. The point of the amendment calling for the release of fulsome information with the consent of the family will help to address this as well.

I do want to address a piece of misinformation from the Labor Party that we have heard from the member for Gaven, as always, about services on the Gold Coast. We have seen a scare campaign about the Parkwood low-acuity accommodation facility. Just to be very clear, that is not a hospital; it is

a hotel. The Crisafulli government, as the member for Southport was mentioning, has been very proud to open 70 new beds at GCUH at H block. The facility that the member for Gaven referred to at the Mantra Southport Sharks was established under a temporary contract. That was always going to end on 31 October this year. We very clearly want people in hospitals, not hotels. That is pretty basic.

An opposition member: So build them already!

Mr O'CONNOR: We have: 70 beds have been delivered. I will take that interjection. We have delivered 70 beds in H block at the Gold Coast University Hospital which we were proud to have the health minister officially open. Labor's delays to H block meant that it was nearly two years behind schedule. We stepped in and rescued their failing project. We invested \$146 million.

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order on the points of order that have been raised in relation to relevance. I am no health expert, but I presume a low-acuity facility would not have ambulances attending it and would not therefore be relevant to the issue of ramping.

Mr SPEAKER: The point of order is on relevance. Stick to the motion, thank you.

Mr O'CONNOR: This will shock the House, but I accept the point of order from the Manager of Opposition Business: a hotel is not a hospital and I thank the Labor Party for finally acknowledging that. The LNP is not going to take lectures from the party who presided over the Jayant Patel scandal. We are not going to take lectures from the party that presided over the fake Tahitian prince scandal. We are not going to take lectures on health care from the party who presided over the nurse payroll debacle. They have a long and pathetic history of mismanagement of Queensland Health and every single time it takes the Liberal National Party to be elected to clean up the mess that Labor leaves.