



Speech By
Hon. Tim Nicholls

MEMBER FOR CLAYFIELD

Record of Proceedings, 15 October 2025

MOTION

White, Ms C

 **Hon. TJ NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (5.35 pm):
I move the following amendment—

That all words after 'That this House' be omitted and the following paragraphs inserted:

1. expresses its sympathy to the White family for the tragic loss of Christine White on 27 August 2025;
2. notes the concerns of the White family;
3. requests the director-general to seek the permission of the White family for the government to release a full account of the events surrounding 27 August 2025;
4. notes that during Labor's decade of decline ramping tripled and the elective surgery waitlist almost doubled.'

Of course, as I expressed yesterday, my sympathies are with the family of Christine White who not only lost their mother but are now having their understandable grief exploited by, sadly, a desperate opposition.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Mr NICHOLLS: As I said yesterday, the circumstances around Mrs White's experience are complex, and out of respect for the family I have not disclosed further details of which I am aware. The Leader of the Opposition has no such respect. He is happy to use the White family's situation for his own political ends.

Ms Fentiman interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Waterford.

Mr NICHOLLS: He stood in this House yesterday and advised he was tabling—and I use the exact words—'the hospital's report, released under RTI'. That was untrue. What the Leader of the Opposition actually tabled was a selectively redacted copy of the RTI documents, edited either by him or by his office, to remove information that is critical to understanding the context of Mrs White's presentation to the Ipswich emergency department. We just heard the member talk about his experience as a former health minister. He should know that the full facts are important.

'Desperate' is one word to describe those actions of the Leader of the Opposition. There are plenty of others. It is important and it is in the public interest that I assure the people of Ipswich that they can depend on their hospital for quality health care. Had the Leader of the Opposition tabled the true version of the document, it would have shown that Mrs White did receive care and medication while at Ipswich Hospital, including pain relief, from both paramedics and hospital staff. It would also show, as the media has now reported, that Mrs White left the hospital of her own accord, against the advice of

medical staff, after removing the cannula in her arm that had been inserted for treatment. Our health workers are world-class, but they cannot stop voluntary patients from leaving hospital if they choose to, even when it is against the health advice and clearly not in the best interests of the patient.

Ms Fentiman interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Waterford.

Mr NICHOLLS: This is a tragic case, but it is not a case of the hardworking staff at Ipswich Hospital abandoning a patient, as the opposition has recklessly claimed. That is why the House requests the director-general of Queensland Health to seek the permission of the White family for the government to release a full account of the events surrounding the 27 August 2025 presentation by Mrs White. This step is necessary to dispel the inaccurate and irresponsible claims made by the Leader of the Opposition—

Ms Fentiman interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Waterford, you are sailing very close.

Mr NICHOLLS:—because they strike at the professionalism and integrity of every hardworking clinician and paramedic who turns up every day to care for Queenslanders in busy emergency departments across the state.

I recognise that the White family has suffered a terrible loss and they are seeking answers. I have written to the White family twice. The West Moreton Hospital and Health Service and the Queensland Ambulance Service also had extensive engagements. Since Mrs White's presentation I am advised the family has written or called on over 50 occasions, all of which have been actioned or responded to. West Moreton HHS has also established a structured process to collect information and disclose that information to the White family. I have directed the West Moreton Hospital and Health Service to continue engaging with the family.

I have not yet received advice from the Office of the Health Ombudsman in relation to the complaints that have been made regarding Mrs White's treatment and I await that information. It is no secret that Queensland's hospitals are under pressure, but that is after a decade of decline under those opposite.