



Speech By  
**Hon. Tim Nicholls**

**MEMBER FOR CLAYFIELD**

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Record of Proceedings, 10 February 2026

**MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST**

**Toowoomba Hospital, Maternity Services**

 **Hon. TJ NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (2.31 pm): I rise to speak on the issue of maternity services in Queensland. As always, the health and safety of mothers and babies is the priority of Queensland Health.

**Mr Bailey** interjected.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** The health and safety of mothers and babies is always a priority, as is supporting our staff. It is distressing to hear when mothers and families do not have the positive experiences that they expect in hospital. A number of mothers and families have written to my office in the past few weeks to raise concerns with their experiences at the Toowoomba Hospital, and of course they must be supported and their concerns heard and actioned. Every adverse event in a Queensland hospital is investigated as part of well-established and longstanding due process for all hospital and health services. Every adverse event is investigated by clinicians external to the event that occurred, and this is a longstanding process that has been in place in hospital and health services, as I said, for many years.

I want to reassure parents and the community that the Toowoomba Hospital is a safe place to give birth. All who are choosing Toowoomba Hospital for bringing their bubs into the world should have the same assurance, and in recent days we have received evidence of that support. We have seen evidence from patients who have successfully delivered and had delivered their babies. We have had that evidence from clinicians as well, but more work needs to be done, and that is why yesterday I announced that I have instructed the director-general to commission an independent assurance review into the Toowoomba Hospital maternity unit. The review panel will include at least three people including a clinician, a maternity consumer representative and a medico-legal expert, and the panel will examine matters that were first raised about the Toowoomba Hospital maternity unit dating back to 2018 as well as review complaints made by mums and families with regard to maternity services at Toowoomba Hospital since then.

A number of reviews and reports into Toowoomba maternity services have been conducted since 2018, including about maternity services and workplace culture. The panel will have oversight over these previous reviews. It will have full access to these reviews and it will assess whether appropriate actions were taken in light of these reviews and what those actions were and other actions that have been taken by the hospital and health service to date. The panel will review the work and improvements undertaken by DDHS to improve its services. Importantly, the panel will engage with patients to enable the voices of mothers and their families to be heard and to ensure Toowoomba Hospital has accessible and appropriate processes in place for patient complaints. The assurance review will have three months to report back to the director-general.

I mentioned the positive feedback, and it is important because the staff who deliver the services at the Toowoomba Hospital are increasingly distressed by the politicisation of the hard work they do by those opposite and the hard work they do to ensure the safe delivery of it. In particular we recall the member for Miller, who has been noticeably absent from this debate, because he has form when it comes to Toowoomba in telling the wrong story and having to apologise for it. He has form in being unreliable. He has form in misrepresenting the truth and having to correct the record publicly, even though he does so in a fashion that is mean, disingenuous and cheap and nasty—all words that are applied by many to the member for Miller. Here is what the patients say. The Cole family expressed their gratitude for the outstanding care received for the birth of their third baby on 28 January 2026, noting they felt—

**Ms Farmer:** Well, that's one.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** 'That's just one'. There we have it. That is their attitude—'just one', says the member for Bulimba, denigrating the hard work of the staff who work 24 hours a day delivering over 2,000 babies a year.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Krause): The minister's time has expired.