



Speech By
Hon. Tim Nicholls

MEMBER FOR CLAYFIELD

Record of Proceedings, 12 February 2026

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Federal Government, Care Services

 **Hon. TJ NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (10.02 am): The Crisafulli LNP government is and has been delivering for Queensland and providing easier access to health services, no matter where Queenslanders live. However, our efforts and the efforts of our dedicated Queensland Health staff across the state have been hindered by the federal government dropping the ball on its areas of responsibility: primary health care, aged care and the NDIS. We are doing something those opposite would not have either the guts or the gumption to do: standing up to the federal government.

Mr SPEAKER: I ask you to withdraw that unparliamentary language, please.

Mr NICHOLLS: I withdraw. We are doing something those opposite would not have had the stomach or the gumption to do: standing up to the federal government. We currently have more than 1,250 stranded Australians languishing in Queensland hospitals alone: 909 older patients waiting for aged care and 350 patients waiting for NDIS support. The Queensland government is also funding interim care beds outside of our hospitals for 450 patients. These stranded Australians should not be in hospital, but they cannot leave because of the lack of access to federally funded aged-care or disability supports.

We know the harrowing human cost of these delays. Just yesterday it was revealed that almost 5,000 older Australians died in the 2024-25 financial year waiting for the appropriate aged care they needed. Last month the Prime Minister made a clear commitment to us all that he would take responsibility to deliver the aged care and disability care stranded Australians need. Words need to be followed by actions.

The Commonwealth government's inability to provide for stranded Australians is not only causing harm to those stranded Australians but also costing Queensland \$2.88 million a day. We are calling on Canberra to establish clear targets for the next two years to help elderly Australians and those with a disability access the care they deserve so they are not left languishing in our hospitals. The federal government can no longer turn its back on this crisis and those human beings, those Queenslanders, waiting for support. It is time for Canberra to step up, pay up and help those stranded Australians get out of our hospitals as quickly as possible and into the appropriate Commonwealth funded care they deserve.