



Speech By
Dr Christian Rowan

MEMBER FOR MOGGILL

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MOTION

Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (5.31 pm): I rise to speak in support of the motion moved by the shadow minister and member for Mudgeeraba. I have to remind the Labor member for Nudgee of a number of things. When it comes to Labor and our health system, the words ‘incompetence’, ‘mismanagement’ and ‘failure’ come to mind. These words are absolutely synonymous with how this Labor government is running the health system in Queensland. They also remind us all of how Labor has previously run the health system here in Queensland, in the failed Beattie and Bligh years.

I will remind Labor and all members of the House of Labor’s previous PPP Health program—Patel, payroll and the fake Tahitian prince episode. Can members remember the time of the payroll fiasco? There was a \$1.2 billion wastage of taxpayer dollars with respect to the failed implementation of the payroll system. The heartache and pain that caused for our hardworking clinicians, doctors, nurses and allied health professionals was disgraceful. We had the Patel saga—

Ms Pease interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Lytton. Your interjections are not being taken.

Dr ROWAN: The clinical governance failures at Bundaberg Hospital led to heartache for patients and the public shaming of Labor.

Ms Pease interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Lytton!

Dr ROWAN: Do members remember the Morris inquiry, the Davies commission and the Forster review?

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Lytton, I have just asked you to cease interjecting. You are warned under standing orders.

Dr ROWAN: The Labor member for Lytton does not like hearing the truth when it comes to Labor’s litany of disasters in relation to health care. They also had the fake Tahitian prince episode, with Mr Joel Barlow defrauding taxpayers of \$16 million—an extraordinary amount of money—with the failure of corporate governance here in Queensland.

It takes a special kind of incompetence by Labor to have a health system in crisis once again. To think that the first priority for them in the 56th Parliament was to change the name from Lady Cilento Children’s Hospital to Queensland Children’s Hospital! This is a disgraceful act when it comes to a pioneering Queensland woman. This is precisely how Labor’s failed health minister is operating. Sadly, he is operating with the full support of the Premier and Labor members opposite. We have heard nothing from female Labor members in relation to this change. It is extraordinary for the Deputy Premier and the member for Waterford to have said nothing in defence of an iconic Queenslanders.

Recently it was also revealed that nearly every hospital across Queensland is failing to meet clinical benchmarks for emergency department and surgical wait times. South-East Queensland emergency departments are the worst performing in the state, with the Sunshine Coast, Metro North, Metro South and Gold Coast regions all falling well short of their targets for category 2 and 3 patients. Perhaps we should not be so surprised by the Metro North result. After all, the minister in his infinite wisdom decided to cut 68 hospital beds from the Metro North Hospital and Health Service last financial year. Meanwhile, it was also revealed that not one hospital and health service met the 25-day median waiting time for elective surgery last financial year. Most shocking was the revelation that the median waiting time for surgery in the Central West region is 259 days, when the target is supposed to be just 25 days.

Ms Leahy: A disgrace.

Dr ROWAN: I take the interjection. It is a disgrace. How the Premier or indeed anyone on the other side of the House can say that they support our regions while they allow critical health metrics like this to blow out is anyone's guess.

The Palaszczuk Labor government professes to care about rural and regional Queensland, but its words are hollow rhetoric. It is allowing crime to spiral out of control, unemployment is up and infrastructure spending is down, but perhaps the greatest slap in the face of Queensland patients and our amazing health professionals is the way that this Labor government, especially its health minister, shirks responsibility and accountability when such failures are presented.

Last week, when questioned about these shocking emergency department wait times, during what should have been a happy photo opportunity at Suncorp Stadium, the smile quickly disappeared from the face of the Minister for Tourism as she tried to somehow shift the Queensland health minister's failings on to the federal government. It is always someone else's fault. Labor blames the Commonwealth and industry; it tries to blame the opposition and the crossbench. It is simply not good enough.

We also have delays in the rollout of the drug rehab facility in Rockhampton. We have had the heart valve tissue bank debacle, where four patients were given tissue from a donor who had brain cancer. Rural maternity services are under pressure, particularly in Chinchilla and Theodore. There are system issues with the integrated electronic Medical Record, with clinicians losing confidence and patience.

This health minister is absolutely flatlining. He is on life support. He stands condemned today for his litany of failures while health minister in this government. Labor stands condemned for all of its failures over years and years.

(Time expired)