



Speech By
Dr Christian Rowan

MEMBER FOR MOGGILL

Record of Proceedings, 1 May 2019

MOTION

Queensland Health; No Confidence in Minister for Health

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (5.31 pm): I rise to support the motion as moved by the LNP's shadow minister for health and ambulance services. It is a great motion. I hear those opposite attacking the member for Mudgeeraba and the member for Currumbin. It is just disgraceful the way that Labor attacks individual members, who have done some great work as clinicians and as nurses as well. However, that is the Labor way: they will always play the man rather than the ball.

It is high time that Labor understands that when it comes to Queensland's health system the primary role of government is service delivery. It is not about rhetoric, it is not about spin, it is not about slogans and it is not about dubious decision-making processes; it is about patients. That is why we are debating this motion tonight, because it is about patients and their clinical care here in Queensland and the fact that this Labor government, like previous Labor governments, is failing the patients and the clinicians of Queensland.

I know that it is the Labor way to opt for style over substance. This has not been more devastatingly evident than in the disgraceful and insulting way in which the Labor Premier and the Minister for Health undertook to tear down—literally rip down—the name and legacy of a great Queensland female doctor. We will not let those opposite forget about the way they have treated the Lady Cilento family in relation to the disgraceful renaming—and their dodgy survey—of the Queensland Children's Hospital.

In question time yesterday the Premier loved to repeat the line, 'I'm proud of our record in Health and we stand on our record.' Is the Labor Premier, Anastacia Palaszczuk, kidding? Is she kidding the Queensland people? Let's look at Labor's health record because what Queenslanders seeking health care and clinical attention within our public health facilities, particularly through the first few months of this year, have had to endure leaves a lot to be desired. There are broken promises in relation to infrastructure upgrades. At the 2017 election there were upgrades promised to Logan, Caboolture and Ipswich. At the time it sounded like this Labor government was going to make that a priority. They are settling on the go-slow agenda because this lazy Labor government is not progressing it in a timely manner. As many people say in the western suburbs of Brisbane, the lazy, socialist Palaszczuk Labor government should always be condemned for its lack of adequate and timely resourcing and for its failed management in Health. There is still no sign that this government will abandon its rapid off-load policy. This was a policy that was supposed to be only an interim arrangement when the Commonwealth Games were being held, but it is now on the autocratic orders of the Labor Minister for Health becoming a permanent feature of the Queensland hospital system.

We need support for our clinicians in Queensland. We know that ambulance ramping and bed block are once again a permanent feature of our public hospital system. That is affecting patient care adversely not only here in the south-east corner but right across Queensland. Queenslanders have

seen this all before during the years of the failed Beattie and Bligh Labor governments. Do honourable members remember the payroll debacle—that \$1.2 billion failure—the fake Tahitian prince episode with \$16 million of fraud on the part of Joel Barlow, the Jayant Patel saga and the failed clinical governance processes? We went through the Forster inquiry and the Davies review. There were those failed health minister years of Wendy Edmond. Even when I was a medical superintendent at the Mungindi Hospital it took three months to get an ECG machine. Clinicians in Queensland are again facing the same sorts of debacles.

When it all goes wrong under this Labor government in Queensland, it is always someone else's fault. It is always the federal government's fault, the Brisbane City Council's fault, somehow the Prime Minister's fault or Campbell Newman's fault.

Mr Janetzki interjected.

Dr ROWAN: I take the interjection from the member for Toowoomba South; it is the patient's fault that they got the flu. It is the patient's fault that they got sick—that elderly people got sick—and had to access our public hospital system in Queensland. They are always blaming someone else. I can tell honourable members that nurses, doctors, ambulance and paramedic staff, and health professionals are being forced to shoulder the burden of Labor's gross incompetence and mismanagement of our health system. Labor always trumpets how they are the friend of the worker. However, they are not friends of clinicians and workers in our health system in Queensland; they are not friends of patients. They are failing the patients of Queensland, jeopardising their clinical care. They need to be doing a lot better. They should be focusing on the priorities of ensuring that patients in Queensland get timely care.

This is a great motion. I would urge all members in this House to support it. The health minister needs to be condemned.