

Queensland Parliament Hansard Green


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SUBJECT: Heath System

MEMBER: Mr KING

### Heath System

 **Mr KING** (Kurwongbah—ALP) (2.20 pm): I rise today to talk about the health of our health system under the Crisafulli LNP government. If the LNP was to be believed at the last election, by now we would have seen evidence of no more patients left waiting on the ramps, enough doctors and nurses in our hospitals, more birthing services in our regional hospitals, shorter waitlists across Queensland health services, two new step-up step-down mental health facilities, more beds across hospitals like Redcliffe and the Prince Charles—and the list goes on.

Over 560 days into this LNP government—that is over 1½ years—what have we actually seen? I do not know about you, Mr Deputy Speaker Krause, but I saw reports of the highest rate of ambulance ramping ever last year—and that was almost a year into the LNP's term—a pause on hospital expansion projects right across the state and birthing services still on bypass in the regions, with reports of the maternity crisis extending into South-East Queensland as well. We have also seen a shuffling of Queensland Health waiting lists so surgery times look better while consultation waits completely blow out. One way to make your surgery list shorter is to not recommend anyone else for surgery. We have not seen any step-up step-down mental health facilities delivered for young people, but we did see an absolute debacle when the LNP overturned the appointment of the new Chief Health Officer.

Now the voters of Stafford have a chance to send a message to the LNP—to an LNP that appears to prioritise colour-coding departments over birthing services for Cooktown, to an LNP that prefers to wage war on workers than to fix the train crisis it is presiding over, to an LNP that buys a billboard with taxpayers' money to advertise \$20,000 worth of school upgrades—in Stafford, funnily enough. This billboard is reportedly worth \$40,000—and I reckon honourable members could poll any school in any of our electorates and be told they would rather spend that billboard cash on improving facilities for kids. That is not to mention the complete disregard shown to Queensland teachers in the LNP's failed wage negotiations.

It is enough to make you sick and need the health system. If you do feel sick, you want to hope you do not live in the Prince Charles Hospital catchment because, while we have seen double standards from those opposite and repeated failure to pass the pub test, Stafford voters are still waiting for the 93 beds promised for their local hospital.