

Queensland Parliament Hansard Green

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SUBJECT: Queensland Health

MEMBER: Mr LANGBROEK

### Queensland Health

 **Mr LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (10.16 am): Yesterday, members will recall that I gave members an update on the progress of the Commonwealth Games. Today, it is my great pleasure to give members an update about what is happening in that other part of my portfolio responsibilities, the Health portfolio. Members will recall that, when it came to the Commonwealth Games, the LNP inherited a financial black hole. We all know that former premier Anna Bligh said that Health was a basket case and that when we came to government we had to fix the problems that had been left.

On Tuesday in this House it was revealed that, in the minister's words, issues had left staff financially impacted as a result of more Health payroll errors. Our health minister reduced dental long waits to zero, introduced the surgery wait-time guarantee, left financial surpluses—which this government is now spending—and, from 1 April 2012 to 21 December 2014, increased the nurse headcount from 32,825 to 34,100 nurses. Under the LNP government, there were more front-line nurses.

People know that the weather has become a little cooler lately. That little birdie that used to be in Caloundra has migrated south to the Gold Coast. Because it is warmer on the Gold Coast, that little birdie has told me that the CBRC submission—

**Mr Hinchliffe:** We are in the Southern Hemisphere, you know. It does not work that way.

**Mr LANGBROEK:** In Queensland, they love to come south.

**An honourable member:** Next stop `Ormoo'.

**Mr LANGBROEK:** As they fly over `Ormoo'—where the dairy farmers are doing their best. The CBRC submission for Queensland nurses under EB9 has been completed. I understand that there will be a 2.5 per cent increase, but nurses will also receive an additional so-called bonus payment to get them to three per cent. The interesting thing is that, 14 months after the agreement has expired, the ALP is still paying them less than they were under the LNP. At the end of our term, under the LNP, nurses were getting 3.12 per cent.

The LNP left more nurses being paid more. The annual report from Queensland Nurses' Union described that increase from the LNP as ensuring—

Queensland Health nurses and midwives amongst the highest paid in the country.

What a contrast to the Labor Party, which has taken 14 months and now is giving nurses less than they received under the LNP.

The little birdie has also told me that in the minister's own department, the hand-picked director-general of the Premier has applied to be the director-general in New South Wales. That is the culture of this government. After 12 months, we have the same old culture—payroll errors and a culture of paranoia. What does Labor have in store for us next? A fake Tahitian prince?