

Queensland Parliament Hansard Green

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SUBJECT: Nurses and Midwives

MEMBER: Mr LANGBROEK

### Nurses and Midwives

 **Mr LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (7.09 pm): I rise to speak about the important role nurses and midwives play in hospitals right around Queensland. We hear constant references to the previous LNP government, so I thought I would begin by touching on one of the things we did as a government in the first six months of 2012.

On 6 August 2012 the Industrial Relations Commission certified the agreement made between the Queensland Department of Health, the Queensland Nurses' Union of Employees and the Australian Workers' Union of Employees. I am very proud of the work we did as a government to reach this agreement. In particular, EB8 part 2 point 13 talks about the increases to wages and allowances. In this agreement at part 2 point 13 it clearly states the increases to wages each year of three per cent or \$30, whichever is higher, and also a three per cent increase to the allowances for nurses and midwives.

As well as this, nurses received a payment of \$500, which took the total increase to 3.16 per cent. This increase of three per cent was year on year for three years and something I know our hardworking nurses and midwives appreciated at the time. This was a great accomplishment for the government at the time and also a great result for nurses and midwives who had certainty and assurance of ongoing wage growth. I table a copy of EB8 for the benefit of the minister and members to examine, as I know the current EB9 is still being finalised.

*Tabled paper:* Document, dated 6 August 2012, relating to Queensland Industrial Relations Commission certification of agreement for nurses and midwives (Queensland Health).

Our nursing staff who sacrifice a lot to help in the care and recovery of others should not go unnoticed. It is an industrial document and it trumps any press release or anything else that might be being referred to when we talk about whatever wage rises are being given.

The latest hospital data shows that our hospitals continue to face ongoing pressures, with the July data showing increases of three and five per cent respectively for category 1 and 2 cases presenting at our emergency departments. Patients being seen within clinically required times saw 25 per cent of category 2 patients not seen in time frames, whilst 39 per cent of category 3 patients were not seen in required times through our emergency departments.

Today we heard the health minister referring to long waits for the specialist outpatient waiting list. It is a bit rich to be lectured by the member for Woodridge when it was our government, the LNP government, which was prepared to put out the waiting list for the waiting list. The previous Labor government hid it. They marked people 'never to be seen'. There were hospitals like the Gold Coast and the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital where they were doing that. Under Labor the total waiting list for the waiting list increased from 120,000 to 232,000 in the six years of Labor between 2006 and 2012. There was a 15 per cent annual cumulative escalation, and under us we brought that down to 228,000. The minister should release all of the waiting list for the waiting list and not selectively cherry pick as he is doing.

*(Time expired)*