

RYAN PARK MP

NSW LABOR SHADOW MINISTER FOR HEALTH

**LABOR: BRAD HAZZARD MUST APOLOGISE FOR AGED CARE
WORKER SLUR**

Labor Shadow Minister for Health Ryan Park has called on Liberal Health Minister Brad Hazzard to apologise to an aged care worker who he publicly scapegoated after they tested positive for COVID-19.

Mr Hazzard threw this worker under the bus when he said on Monday that they were “not doing the right thing” in continuing to go to work caring for the elderly.

But this morning Gladys Berejiklian said the health worker in question “did the right thing” and commended them on getting tested as soon as they realised they could have been in contact with someone with the illness.

Mr Hazzard has so far refused to apologise for publicly scapegoating the aged care worker. Labor is calling on Mr Hazzard to apologise immediately.

Mr Park said: “We know from the six fatalities at the Dorothy Henderson lodge that COVID-19 can have dire consequences in aged care facilities.

“Instead of treating this poor worker like a scapegoat, Brad Hazzard should be making sure we’re preventing future crises.

“Instead of telling aged care workers to ‘step-up’, the Minister needs to step up himself. He needs to apologise to the worker he tried to throw under a bus and take steps to protect aged care workers and those who are in their care.”

Labor is also calling on the Government to increase the supply of Personal Protective Equipment across the aged care sector. Equipment is so scarce in some facilities that it is being kept under lock and key.

“If Brad Hazzard is serious about supporting aged care workers then he’d increase supplies of Personal Protective Equipment in all aged care facilities, institute temperature checks and screening for all aged care workers and provide guaranteed special leave so vulnerable workers are encouraged to seek testing,” Mr Park said.