



Speech by

## John-Paul Langbroek

**MEMBER FOR SURFERS PARADISE**

Hansard Thursday, 2 November 2006

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### HOSPITAL PERFORMANCE REPORT

**Mr LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—Lib) (10.28 am): I would like to take the opportunity today to respond to the statement from the Minister for Health yesterday relating to the latest hospital waiting list data. We did not have to analyse the data long before we realised that the statements by the minister, the Premier and the Labor government that it has turned the corner with respect to health are just more spin. There are more sick Queenslanders waiting on the lists for category 1 and category 2 surgery. Sick Queenslanders are waiting longer for urgent operations. That is the most disturbing feature of this latest report.

There was a 45 per cent increase in patients waiting more than the recommended 30 days for the most urgent life-saving category 1 operations, compared to October 2005. For category 2, the number of Queenslanders waiting more than the required 90 days for semi-urgent operations increased by 65 per cent. There are now nearly 10,000 people waiting longer than they should for operations across all categories—up by 1,453 on the same period last year.

Yesterday the minister said that the Beattie government would address the most urgent of the long waits by recruiting to Queensland Health in the areas of key surgery and theatre nurse vacancies. Unfortunately, the government has not come to the realisation that the only way recruiting more health professionals is going to get results and is going to start reducing the number of Queenslanders on the waiting lists is if Queensland can retain those professionals. The minister and Premier make great play in this place to point out that Queensland Health has recruited more doctors and more nurses, but the minister has failed to reveal just how many health professionals have left and are continuing to leave Queensland Health. Lowering the waiting list figures is only going to be achieved if Queensland Health can recruit and also retain more health professionals.

I am attending the state medical radiation professionals crisis summit on Sunday—a crisis summit with the aim to address employment conditions and develop workplace issues, because these people from all over the state are telling me that their services are on the verge of collapse. One of the reasons people are leaving Queensland Health is that the pressure is too high. Those opposite should be ashamed for rejecting the coalition's amendments yesterday and, in doing so, rejecting the recommendations of the Forster review. It rejected the spirit of the calls from the AMAQ. It rejected those waiting longer than ever before on Queensland's waiting lists.