



Speech by


**Michael Crandon**

**MEMBER FOR COOMERA**

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## **MOUNT WARREN PARK DENTAL CLINIC**

 **Mr CRANDON** (Coomera—LNP) (2.55 pm): My office received a call from a constituent regarding the Mount Warren Park Dental Clinic, a Queensland Health facility. My constituent went for a scheduled appointment last week only to be told that the staff were on strike and she would have to come back this week. On arrival yesterday she was told that they were still on strike and they did not know when it would be sorted out.

My constituent made a big fuss as it had cost her \$13 to get there by taxi from Eagleby. Eventually, she was treated by a dentist and he told her to make another appointment for further treatment. The staff advised her that another appointment could not be made as they were not making appointments because they are on strike. The constituent rang Logan City Council, who referred her to the Premier's office, who referred her to the office of the member for Waterford, who referred her to my office.

We spoke to Mount Warren Park Dental Clinic staff, who confirmed they were on strike. Staff are striking about pay and work conditions. They are only taking emergency cases and are not accepting new patients or making appointments. She said that people need to ring the office of the member for Logan to arrange appointments. The staff of the member for Logan advised that they are referring everyone to the Premier's office. It is a bit of a run-around. We rang the Premier's office, who tried to put us through to the office of the Minister for Health. At 10.40 am yesterday we received a call from the health minister's office. At 3.10 pm we spoke to our constituent, who advised that someone had rung but she was not home. They were meant to ring back at 2.30 pm, which was 40 minutes before we had rung and they had not yet rung.

Finally, after further intervention, Queensland Health is now working to assist my constituent. Further inquiry at the clinic found that approximately seven admin and dental assistants are on strike. Tasks not being performed include making appointments and accepting new patients. We have been advised that the Browns Plains clinic is completely shut down due to the strike. We are told that the strike is because of pay and working conditions, for example, dental assistants are being required to do admin and other tasks not in their job descriptions.

What is the minister doing to fix this issue that is preventing those who cannot afford private dental treatment from even making an appointment, let alone having the dental work needed, thus pushing up waiting lists even further?