




Speech By
Ros Bates

MEMBER FOR MUDGEERABA

Record of Proceedings, 17 March 2016

PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Miller, Mr B

 **Ms BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (2.39 pm): I rise to inform the House of one of the saddest cases of mismanagement within Queensland Health I have ever come across in my seven years as a member of parliament and in my 35 years as a nurse. Barry Miller is a former soldier, security guard and first responder with St John Ambulance who lives in my electorate and suffers from post-traumatic stress disorder, acute anxiety and acute depression.

Tragically, in recent months, Barry has twice attempted to take his own life—on 25 August 2015 and 7 December 2015. On 6 February this year Barry sought assistance from Robina Hospital when he informed staff that he had suicidal ideations and intent of purpose and wanted to be admitted so he did not self-harm. Shockingly, Barry was not admitted. In fact, he informs me that he did not even get to see a doctor and was given a valium and sent home with a brochure for homeless people.

Two weeks later he was threatened with eviction from his home and cannot receive appropriate financial assistance through the Department of Human Services for a disability pension until his PTSD, depression, anxiety and his cardiac and pulmonary conditions are appropriately medically managed. On the day that Barry sought help from Robina Hospital, he wrote in his diary—

Present myself at Robina Hospital as I am feeling suicidal and crying my eyes out.

I need help and I usually don't ask for it but today is different.

Heart racing; diaphoresis, etc.

"Wait in the waiting room and we will call you shortly."

Gave me a Valium then and there and 1 to take home and have tomorrow.

Kicked out at 2050 and sent home to rest.

Hello! I come to you as I have suicidal ideation and intentions and you give me a Tic Tac and kick me out.

On 29 February I wrote to the Minister for Health to seek his urgent assistance to admit Barry for an immediate inpatient psychiatric assessment by the mental health unit of the Gold Coast Hospital and Health Service. I table a copy of this letter for the benefit of the House. I also table a subsequent article from the *Gold Coast Bulletin*.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 29 February 2016, from the member for Mudgeeraba, Ms Ros Bates MP, to the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services, Hon. Cameron Dick, regarding Mr Barry Miller [\[389\]](#).

Tabled paper: Article from *Gold Coast Bulletin*, dated 1 March 2016, titled 'System at Robina "scary"' [\[390\]](#).

Barry informs me that he has still not been seen by any doctor, he has not been admitted and, in fact, they are reviewing the processes and are off on a witch-hunt instead. Barry needs to be urgently admitted for an inpatient psychiatric assessment. I call on you, Minister, to do the right thing and make this happen today. I can assure you, Minister, that if Barry presents to the hospital—

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Farmer): Order! I will ask the member to direct her comments through the chair.

Ms BATES: I can assure the minister that if Barry presents to the hospital again for suicidal tendencies that he will be admitted because he will call me personally and I will do the minister's job for him.