




Speech By
Ros Bates

MEMBER FOR MUDGEERABA

Record of Proceedings, 21 April 2016

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Miller, Mr B

 **Ms BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (2.55 pm): Last month I rose in the House to tell of the plight of Barry Miller, 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. I spoke of how, after two suicide attempts, Barry sought help from Robina Hospital, but tragically he was turned away; he was told to go home. At the time, I told the minister that if Barry presented to the hospital again for suicidal tendencies I would do everything I could to have him admitted.

On 3 April, I awoke to a chilling email, the likes of which no-one in this place should ever have to receive. It read—

I hope that this email finds you all well, healthy and happy.

Unfortunately, I have some bad news for you today.

I killed myself last night.

Everything that has occurred or happened in my life since my first suicide attempt on 24 August up until today, have all contributed to increase my anxiety, deepen my depression and release the PTSD head demons to send me over the edge.

The Mental Health Unit at Robina is not an option as they still haven't resolved my complaints so I have no faith in them.

I am sorry,

Barry.

Without hesitation, I called 000 and told the dispatch controller what had been sent to me, and requested police and ambulance response to Barry's home. Thankfully, the police and ambulance service were able to track down Barry before it was too late. Anything could have happened by the time I received the email, but thankfully emergency services did get to him in time. It was then that I knew that I needed to find a way to get Barry the help that he needed so that this would never happen again.

I place on record my sincere thanks to the Gold Coast Hospital and Health Service and, in particular, its chief executive, Ron Calvert, and board chairman, Ian Langdon, for urgently admitting Barry so that he could finally get the help that he needs. For the benefit of the House, I table a copy of the minister's response to me, although not for a second did I ever think that I would have to take his advice on this matter. Never did I think that in my time in this place I would have to call 000 to save the life of a constituent. I hope Barry will now find the help that he so desperately needs.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 4 March 2016, from the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services, Hon. Cameron Dick, to the member for Mudgeeraba, Ms Ros Bates MP, regarding Mr Barry Miller [\[571\]](#).