




Speech By
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MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Ambulance Service

 **Mr LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (12.10 pm): Queenslanders seeking emergency care and those who provide emergency care are being left in the lurch because Labor government ministers and members do not think that anything needs to be done about ambulance ramping and bed block. Logan Hospital has repeatedly lagged behind all Queensland hospitals, producing the worst results in the state since last year. At its worst, in January this year, 44 per cent of patients seeking emergency care were made to wait in the back of an ambulance for more than 30 minutes. That number has not improved a lot, with 37 per cent of patients arriving by ambulance still made to wait for more than 30 minutes for vital care.

On 31 May, the *Courier-Mail* reported that, after having a heart attack, a Marsden resident drove himself to Logan Hospital because he feared that he would not be able to get an ambulance. The last time this man was at Logan Hospital his ambulance was ramped. He warned that ambulance ramping is not confined to Logan Hospital. The fact that someone who has just had a heart attack drives himself to hospital says a lot about the lack of confidence that the people of Queensland are beginning to have in the emergency health system. My question is: where is the member for Waterford, Shannon Fentiman, in standing up for her constituent? Where is the member for Woodridge, the minister, Cameron Dick, in ensuring that a hospital that also services his constituents provides timely and effective care? They just do not care. Labor takes the support of voters in the electorates of Logan, Woodridge and Waterford for granted.

When it comes to ambulance ramping, Redland Hospital and the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital are tied second worst in the state, with 30 per cent of patients left waiting on a stretcher for urgent medical attention. Although the member for Cleveland, Mark Robinson, has been a strong advocate in calling on the government to improve health services for his constituents, the member for Brisbane Central, Grace Grace, has left her constituents in the lurch as the RBWH continues to struggle to stamp out ramping.

Meanwhile, north of Brisbane, when it comes to campaigning to ensure that patients are off the stretcher on time at Caboolture Hospital and that paramedics are back on the road doing their job, the member for Pumicestone, Rick Williams, is nowhere to be seen. Once again, the Gold Coast has been forgotten, with 27 per cent and 23 per cent of patients being left on a stretcher for significant lengths of time at both the Gold Coast University Hospital and Robina Hospital respectively. That is despite constant campaigning by my fellow LNP members who represent the Gold Coast.

Redcliffe Hospital has also struggled to ensure that patients are seen on time, but when asked questions about the hospital by the *Courier-Mail*, the member for Redcliffe, Attorney-General Yvette D'Ath, did not even bother to reply. I know that Kerri-Anne Dooley, the LNP's candidate for Redcliffe, has been speaking with locals about their concerns about the hospital.

The fact is that ramping is at levels not seen since before 2012, when the LNP came to office. Over the term of the Palaszczuk government the minister, Cameron Dick, has been channelling *Game of Thrones*, blaming all of his shortcomings on the fact that winter is coming. He is always blaming the federal LNP government for supposed budget shortfalls, of promises made by federal Labor PM Kevin Rudd. He even referred to it again today. They are promises that Bill Shorten would not even commit to in the most recent federal election campaign.

An opposition member: Monopoly money.

Mr LANGBROEK: It was Monopoly money. It happened in Education and it is happening in Health. The LNP stamped out ramping, not by making excuses like Minister Dick likes to do, but through encouraging a more coordinated response between our ambulance officers and paramedics and our emergency departments.

Labor inaction with regard to emergency services does not stop there. It is not just the services; it is the people. On 6 June, Minister Mark Ryan launched an extraordinary attack on the LNP's protecting our front-line workers policy, which puts Queensland in line with other states and territories by enforcing mandatory sentencing.

Mr Mander interjected.

Mr LANGBROEK: I take the interjection of the honourable member for Everton. In a letter to the editor the minister said that, instead of ensuring that those who treat our paramedics as punching bags get more than a slap on the wrist, Labor would do nothing. I table the article.

Tabled paper: Document, undated, titled 'No Tolerance to violence against workers' [\[907\]](#).

Minister Ryan said that nothing more needed to be done to protect our emergency service workers, because the current laws were sufficient—except that, during Labor's term, no custodial sentences have been given to people who assault front-line workers. Queenslanders deserve better than this do-nothing Labor government. That was a classic example. Today, the minister has written to the Toowoomba *Chronicle*.

We will be responding to the fact that no-one who has assaulted a front-line worker has been given a custodial sentence. Although the police minister maintains that the laws are there, they are not protecting our front-line workers. Our patients deserve better support from a government, whether it comes to ramping or getting out of bed block. That is what the LNP will deliver in government: better government for Queensland.