




Speech By
Ros Bates

MEMBER FOR MUDGEERABA

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PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Health System

 **Ms BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (2.31 pm): The truth about the Minister for Health's phony campaign about so-called federal health cuts has been laid bare for all to see. Saturday's *Courier-Mail* story exposed the minister as a complete fraud when it comes to phony political campaigns. The headline said it all: *State health cuts mean surgery waits*. The article goes on—

Patients in Queensland hospitals are waiting longer for surgery after the State Government took a scalpel to funding. Shock new analysis reveals a correlation between waiting blowouts at Bundaberg and Mackay hospitals at the same time it cut or redirected funding to other hospitals. But one of the biggest cuts was to Mater Children's Hospital, Mater Mothers' Hospital and Mater Adult Hospital—\$34 million—

by the state! I table that article.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Courier-Mail*, dated 17 March 2018, titled 'State health cuts mean surgery waits' [\[426\]](#).

'Dr Dolittle' has been running around Queensland for the last few weeks—

Mr BROWN: I rise to a point of order. The member should refer to the minister by his correct title.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will counsel the member for Mudgeeraba to make sure she addresses all those in the chamber by their correct title.

Ms BATES: He has been running around Queensland for the last few weeks when funding from the Commonwealth has increased and will continue to increase by \$2 billion over the next two years. It is just like the 'Medicare' campaign we saw in the 2016 federal election. When it comes to health and Labor, those opposite simply cannot be trusted because they will say anything and do anything to cover up their own incompetence.

The truth was laid bare and exposed Queensland Labor and the Minister for Health as complete hypocrites. Let us not forget this is a minister who cannot even run his office or manage to send a letter. This is a minister who opened up our hospitals to 'Dr Google' and 'Dr Love'. Whilst this minister chooses to play politics with our health system patients are suffering.

The latest Queensland Health figures from February show a shocking one in three patients in EDs were not seen within clinically recommended time frames. Ambulance ramping is back and getting worse. There are tens of thousands of sick and injured Queenslanders every month suffering with Labor at the helm. This is a return to the bad old days of Labor, the bad old days of Anna Bligh, Geoff Wilson and Paul Lucas.

Things are not getting any better under Labor or under this new minister with his PhD in union recruitment. In fact, 33 per cent of patients not being seen within recommended time frames is a jump from 31 per cent last month; 21 per cent of ambulance ramping is a jump from 20 per cent last month. In many regions it is even worse. On the Gold Coast 58 per cent of patients are waiting longer than they should, up a whopping eight per cent in a single month.

Queenslanders deserve a world-class health system and Labor is too busy blaming everyone else to deliver it. We know that behind every one of these numbers there is a sick or injured Queenslanders who cannot get in to see a doctor. Our front-line health staff are crying out for more support. They need help on the front line to improve wait times and provide better outcomes for patients. Labor needs to get on with the job and stop the blame game.