




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR MUDGEERABA

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Queensland Health, Integrated electronic Medical Record

 **Ms BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (2.49 pm): The rollout of Queensland Health's \$600 million integrated electronic Medical Record system is unravelling before the health minister's eyes. Let us not forget that the former health minister heralded this project as a key part of the government's 20-year strategy to bring our hospitals into the digital age and then he cut and ran from the portfolio. The current health minister has labelled the rollout an incredible success. Doctors have lost confidence, there are regular system outages and the man responsible, Dr Richard Ashby, is currently under an active investigation by the Crime and Corruption Commission.

Despite issues being raised, it seems that the concerns of clinicians from right across the state have fallen on deaf ears. The minister knows there are issues which is why he shut down the line of questioning in estimates as soon as I raised the matter. This week it was revealed on Channel 9 that a secret Queensland Health report obtained through right to information detailed shocking findings of the major failures of the ieMR system last year. The secret report debunks the notion that the system failure was a result of cyberattack and was instead a software malfunction. It said—

This had considerable clinical impact on seven Queensland Hospitals utilising the Cerner managed services with Princess Alexandra Hospital and other moving to a hospital emergency state of 'Code Yellow' and reverting from digital clinical services to manual paper-based processes for the duration of the event and for several days beyond. The impacted hospitals were PA, Gold Coast University Hospital, Lady Cilento Children's Hospital, Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital as well as Mackay, Townsville and Cairns hospitals.

The report also outlined that Cerner actively obstructed the investigation into the software errors and then disengaged from the investigation. Cerner did not provide logs from the relevant systems and worse provided incorrect logs for incorrect dates and no explanation of what went wrong. It appears the report was buried because it did not paint Cerner in a favourable light. Others can draw their own conclusions.

Despite all of these issues, elements of the program were brought forward and fast-tracked. Queenslanders deserve answers about the rollout of this program and the buck stops with the minister. He needs to front up and start answering the tough questions and stop hiding behind CCC investigations. What did he know about the issues in this program and the investigation? When did he know it? Why did he not do anything about it?

Queenslanders have had an absolute belly full of his 'dog ate my homework' excuses. The rollout needs to be immediately halted until all technical issues are ironed out and Dr Richard Ashby should be stood down immediately. This program has all the hallmarks of another Health payroll debacle. However, this time the program has an impact on patient care.