




Speech By
Lachlan Millar

MEMBER FOR GREGORY

Record of Proceedings, 27 March 2019

ADJORNMENT

Gregory Electorate, Renal Dialysis Services

 **Mr MILLAR** (Gregory—LNP) (7.06 pm): Today I table a nonconforming petition of 655 electors from the Gregory electorate.

Tabled paper: Nonconforming petition regarding delivery of local renal dialysis services to Emerald and Longreach [\[420\]](#).

This petition seeks to draw the attention of the House to the urgent need of renal dialysis services in Emerald and Longreach hospitals. This is a matter of great urgency because of the hardship that the lack of services places on my constituents. Renal dialysis is not optional: it is an ongoing and life-saving treatment.

Take the case of Lyndell Polkorny. Lyndell and her husband, Neil, from Longreach, have been in Rockhampton for over three months now in order for Lyndell to receive a five-hour dialysis treatment three times a week. With no dialysis chair in Longreach, Lyndell and her husband, Neil, have been forced to lock up their home in Longreach and relocate to Rockhampton for an unspecified and unpredictable period of time. This means that they have both had to quit their jobs. They are living in a small cabin in a caravan park which is paid for by the Central Queensland Health and Hospital Service. They are very grateful for this, but they are worried that this funding may expire before Lyndell's treatment is completed.

Recently Lyndell had to travel from Rockhampton to Brisbane for additional treatment which is connected to her condition. Even though the trip was only a couple of days, and even though the trip was medically prescribed, and even though Lyndell had to return immediately to resume dialysis, Neil and Lyndell had to pack and store their belongings in their car so the cabin could be vacated for their brief absence. There is no sense of security and wellbeing, but there are no flights between Longreach and Rockhampton and return trip by road is around 1,400 kilometres.

Take the case of Mr Ian Williams of Emerald. Emerald is four hours closer to Rockhampton, so Ian takes the bus to Rockhampton for his treatments. It is a six-hour round trip, and Ian can only travel according to the bus schedule. His specialist prescribed five hours of dialysis three times a week alternatively on Monday, Wednesday and Friday one week and Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday the next. Due to the bus and hospital schedules he does not receive the prescribed amount on the prescribed schedule.

In answer to a question on notice in August last year, the health minister advised that he had commissioned a statewide review of renal services in Queensland to assist in planning for improved statewide services. As we approach the budget period I plead with the Minister for Health, Steven Miles, not to forget the constituents of Gregory and the need for renal dialysis chairs in Emerald and Longreach hospitals when he puts his funding plans together. He has opened a service in Bowen, which is closer to Mackay than Emerald or Longreach are to Rockhampton. I ask the minister to please put his commitment behind this petition and deliver the constituents of Gregory renal dialysis, which is life-saving treatment. It is needed in the area. We need to have that sort of care in regional and rural Queensland.