




Speech By
Ros Bates

MEMBER FOR MUDGEERABA

Record of Proceedings, 28 March 2019

PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Health System; Braun, Dr W

 **Ms BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (2.00 pm): Queenslanders have been horrified by Labor's health crisis this week, and rightly so. Surgeries have been cancelled, nurses and doctors are under severe stress, the system is at breaking point. Instead of wasting taxpayers' money renaming hospitals, playing silly political blame games and making all the excuses under the sun, the Premier and her embattled health minister should have focused on providing better local health services as they promised Queenslanders at the last state election.

Another health scandal that has impacted patient care relates to the allegations raised against a senior Queensland surgeon, Dr William Braun. I have spoken about this issue on two occasions, but there is still more damning evidence that the system has failed. There have been many allegations of the most serious nature from doctors to patients and concerned relatives worried if their loved ones were going to survive. This whole saga should never have happened. A massive spotlight has been shone on to health authorities for effectively dismissing these complaints which have been raised over a number of years. On top of the documents and allegations that I have previously tabled, today it has been revealed that concerns about Dr Braun were raised with the Australasian College of Surgeons as far back as 2006. I table a letter from the then clinical superintendent at the Royal Darwin Hospital with the most serious of allegations, including that from his time training in Rockhampton and other Queensland hospitals.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 22 July 2006, from the Clinical Superintendent, Royal Darwin Hospital, to the Chief Executive Officer, Royal Australasian College of Surgeons, regarding Dr William Braun [433](#).

The letter states—

There were numerous complaints, particularly from the ED staff, and also from other areas including ICU and ward staff of Dr Braun's behaviour and professionalism.

...

All Dr Braun's supervisors agree he seemed to have significant flaws in his knowledge base ... This led some to wonder if he had actually gone through formal medical training.

There were also a number of sentinel cases that aroused concern. For those who are not aware, sentinel events are a subset of adverse patient safety events that are wholly preventable and result in serious harm to or death of a patient. Eleven cases were then identified in the correspondence which I have tabled. The conclusion of the letter states—

It was recommended by the Supervisor of Surgical Training after an end of term training assessment that Dr Braun should not proceed to advanced surgical training.

...

All permanent consultant surgeons and seniors in the Department of Anaesthetics and E.D. are sufficiently concerned about his behaviour as documented above to formally notify the Medical Board that he was possibly a danger to the public.

...

In particular it is his inability to show any insight into his own behaviour which makes him a potentially dangerous medical practitioner.

This letter should have been the smoking gun that exposed Dr Braun. He should never have been operating in Queensland hospitals. There are a number of serious questions which need to be answered. Why are these complaints ignored? Why were Queensland patients put at risk? After all, he was trained in various Queensland hospitals including on the Gold Coast, Rockhampton and PA Hospital. It is not good enough.