




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR MUDGEERABA

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MOTION

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Waste

 **Ms BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (5.20 pm): When it comes to wasting taxpayers' money, the Palaszczuk Labor government wins the gold medal for sheer incompetence and absolute waste. There is no greater example of how Labor's priorities are all wrong than wasting hundreds of thousands of dollars—so far—on renaming the Lady Cilento children's hospital instead of ensuring better patient care for our sickest kids.

What we saw from the health minister last year in relation to this renaming debacle was an absolute disgrace. The minister denigrated the legacy of a pioneering and award-winning female Queensland doctor and thumbed his nose at the Cilento family by not even bothering to meet with them until after the decision was made. The minister was caught out using a rigged survey as so-called consultation to justify the decision. At the same time there was a major shortage of oncology beds and kids with cancer were being treated in a kitchenette. Queenslanders deserve a world-class health system that the Palaszczuk Labor government is not delivering. Our hardworking nurses, doctors, midwives and paramedics on the front line need more help to improve patient care.

Queensland Health hospital performance data released every month shows the full extent of Labor's health crisis in our hospitals. The current data shows that, for January this year, 28 per cent of Queensland patients admitted to emergency departments were not seen on time. It also shows that 25 per cent of Queensland patients are being ramped in ambulances because of the chaos in emergency departments, which are bursting at the seams.

In relation to elective surgery, almost eight per cent of Queensland patients are not seen on time, and the median wait time for treatment has blown out to 48 days. To put that into perspective, in 2015, when the LNP left office, 97 per cent of elective surgeries were done on time and the median wait time was 28 days. In over four years, the median wait time for elective surgeries under Labor almost doubled. These are not just numbers on a spreadsheet or on a computer; it is your mother, grandad or close family friend. As a nurse and someone who has run hospitals before, I also feel sorry for the Queensland nurses on the front line who deal with Labor's health crisis in our hospitals each and every day.

Last December, the Auditor-General released a damning report into the rollout of Labor's latest Health IT debacle, the integrated electronic Medical Record. The report showed a \$256 million blowout in the program. Despite that, the health minister has the audacity to label the report a 'big tick'. Talk about being out of touch and absolute sheer arrogance!

Last week, the AMAQ issued another desperate plea to the health minister to stop the rollout of the integrated electronic Medical Record program, because patient safety was at risk. In their press release of 29 March 2019, which I table, the AMA said—

... we have voiced concerns about the rollout of Queensland Health's Integrated Electronic Medical Record across public hospitals. These concerns have been reported to us by doctors working in the public health system. AMA Queensland has recommended Queensland health pause the rollout of the IMR to allow for doctors' concerns around productivity and patient care to be resolved.

Tabled paper. Media statement, dated 29 March 2019, by the Australian Medical Association regarding digitisation of the state's public hospital and health services [530](#).

The LNP has called for the program to be stopped. Doctors have been calling for the program to be stopped. The Auditor-General slammed the waste and inefficiencies, yet the minister described the digital hospital program as an incredible success. Queenslanders have had enough of the health minister and his 'dog ate my homework' excuses. It is time that patients came first. The Palaszczuk government is out of touch, with no plan, direction or energy. Trains do not run on time, the health system lurches from crisis to crisis, education standards are slipping, drug and violent crime is increasing and we have one of the highest unemployment rates in the nation.

Labor's policy priorities are all wrong. It spends hundreds of thousands of dollars renaming a hospital when the health system is in crisis and adds five taxes when Queensland has one of the highest unemployment rates in the nation. Labor cuts the police budget and spends hundreds of millions of dollars on union demands to buy back private prisons when crime is out of control. Labor wants to teach kids about unions while education standards are slipping. Labor slugs you more for your rego and your electricity but does not fix your roads or lower your power bill. Labor does favours for its union mates but 'rail fail' continues. Labor spends millions on overseas travel but cuts maternity services in the bush. I support the motion moved by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition. This government should stand condemned for its waste and wrong priorities.