




Speech By
Ros Bates

MEMBER FOR MUDGEERABA

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Health System

 **Ms BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (2.50 pm): Over the last week we have seen our public health system failures on full display in the media for all the wrong reasons and the embattled Minister for Health has once again been missing in action. Queenslanders deserve a world-class public health system that the Palaszczuk Labor government is not delivering. Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk promised better local health services at the last election, but has failed to deliver.

As a nurse I know that our hardworking nurses, doctors, midwives and paramedics need more help on the front line to improve patient care. They are struggling to cope with IT failures, code yellows, emergency departments packed to the rafters, skyrocketing ambulance ramping and the sterilisation debacle at the PA Hospital. I speak with nurses, doctors and paramedics every single day and I will stand up for them and the patients of Queensland every day of the week. In fact, our hardworking health staff are at their wits' end. It is only the LNP that will put patient care ahead of playing petty political games. It is only the LNP that will listen to real doctors over spin doctors. We will spend money on frontline health services and reducing waiting lists not changing the names of hospitals.

Ms Farmer interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Order! Member for Bulimba!

Ms BATES: The sterilisation crisis at the PA Hospital is yet another debacle.

Ms Farmer interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Member for Bulimba!

Ms BATES: It was supposed to be fixed in one day and then it was one week and now we are hearing it will be several months. We have also heard that morale amongst surgeons is at an all-time low. The health minister needs to come out of hiding today and tell the people of Queensland when will the PA Hospital sterilisation crisis be over.

Ms Farmer interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Pause the clock. Member for Bulimba, I have pulled you up several times. You are now warned under the standing orders.

Ms BATES: When will the latest health bungle be fixed? How much will it cost and how long has this issue been going on for? The latest ambulance ramping data for July also shows the policy failures under this government. Patients are being kept on ambulance stretchers instead of receiving care in hospital beds as ramping rates surge under the Palaszczuk Labor government. Queensland Health data for July revealed the statewide ambulance ramping rate has jumped to 31 per cent, the worst monthly performance results of Labor's current term. At Logan Hospital it is 48 per cent; at the Gold Coast University Hospital it is 43 per cent; at Caboolture Hospital and Sunshine Coast University Hospital it is 42 per cent. In Rockhampton ambulance ramping has increased by 24 per cent since the

last state election. In Cairns ambulance ramping has increased by 17 per cent since the last state election and at the PA Hospital ambulance ramping has increased by 18 per cent since the last state election.

Mr Harper: What about Townsville?

Ms BATES: I am glad you asked me about Townsville because that has increased by five per cent.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Through the chair, please.

Ms BATES: These are not just numbers on a spreadsheet; these are real people with real health issues. Meanwhile, despite the code yellow crises, despite skyrocketing ambulance ramping, Labor's hospital building budget has been cut by \$203 million in this year alone. The LNP will stand up for frontline health staff and fight for better patient care. It is only the LNP that will deliver a world-class health system. On that point I acknowledge in the gallery today Sandy, who has driven for seven hours from Clermont. She is fighting for better local health services in her regional community.