




Speech By
Ros Bates

MEMBER FOR MUDGEERABA

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Hospitals, Emergency Departments

 **Ms BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (2.06 pm): Today Labor's health crisis continues with more bad news for patients and hardworking nurses, paramedics, doctors and midwives across the state. The *Gold Coast Bulletin* front-page headline says it all: 'Careful in the corridor—ambos wait with patients as ramping pressure intensifies.'

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Are you tabling that, member for Mudgeeraba?

Ms BATES: I table that document for the benefit of those who have not seen it.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Gold Coast Bulletin*, dated 17 October 2019, titled 'Carefull in the Corridor' [1867](#).

The article states—

Paramedics are being left waiting with patients in hospital corridors for hours as the ambulance ramping crisis reaches a new low.

On the Gold Coast, 41 per cent of patients are waiting in the back of ambulances for longer than 30 minutes whilst trying to get emergency care at both of our major public hospitals. This flies in the face of the Palaszczuk Labor government's promises to provide better local health services.

This is what happens when you waste hundreds of millions of dollars worth of taxpayers' money on failed IT projects and you have the wrong priorities, such as renaming hospitals and shutting regional maternity services. This is what happens when you cut the hospital building budget by \$203 million this year and play petty political games with national partnerships that would deliver billions of dollars in new funding that is desperately needed now.

It has prompted a call from the Queensland Nurses and Midwives Union for an urgent review of emergency departments across the state. As a nurse, I feel for the hardworking nurses, paramedics, doctors and midwives who are at their wit's end with Labor's health crisis. The *Gold Coast Bulletin* reported that an emergency services source said yesterday—

'We wait with them (patients) along corridors or around corners. Some are put in chairs. We have waited up to two-and-a-half hours with category two, chest pain patients. There is some confusion about who is in charge of their care.'

The media article also noted comments from another health source that on occasions ramping at Robina Hospital is so bad that there are not enough ambulance bays. It states—

'They are left in the corridor. It goes on all the time. We have ambulances parked outside the ambulance bays. There is no room for them', the source said.

Queenslanders do not need yet another politically charged review, they need a change of government by voting for the LNP because our health priorities will always be on better patient care.

I want to also completely discredit the wild and completely false claims from the health minister that he repeats in the media and in the chamber. The LNP will not be privatising the public health system. Anything said to the contrary is just another Labor falsehood and another health scare campaign from a desperate Palaszczuk Labor government trying to distract from Labor's horrendous record.

We will cut surgery waiting lists and improve emergency care. There is no point sick and injured Queenslanders sitting on long waiting lists when there are empty beds and capacity in private hospitals to cut wait times. Our focus will be on better patient care and providing support to frontline health services. Unlike Labor, we will not be wasting money renaming hospitals or using hospital budgets to fix IT glitches.