




Speech By
Ros Bates

MEMBER FOR MUDGEERABA

Record of Proceedings, 23 October 2019

MOTION

Queensland Health

 **Ms BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (4.59 pm): I move—

That this House—

1. condemns the Palaszczuk Labor government for ongoing health failures and wrong priorities, including:
 - (a) the CEO sacking debacle at the Wide Bay Hospital and Health Service, which has dragged on for more than three weeks;
 - (b) the ongoing sterilisation crisis at the PA Hospital, which has seen hundreds of surgeries delayed and rescheduled;
 - (c) the failed rollout of the \$35 million regional eHealth project in Far North Queensland;
 - (d) skyrocketing ambulance ramping;
 - (e) surgery wait times blowing out;
 - (f) delays in progressing the new drug and alcohol rehabilitation facility in Rockhampton;
 - (g) cutting \$203 million for the hospital building budget for this year, while many of our hospitals are bursting at the seams;
 - (h) overseeing a \$2.1 million reduction in donations to the Children's Hospital Foundation following the removal of the Lady Cilento name;
 - (i) failing to resolve issues with the \$135 million FAMMIS ordering system failures, which has seen nurses having to order medical supplies on the corporate bankcard and extra staff employed just to process ongoing payments;
 - (j) the minister's announcement that 100 complaints per day is 'not a bad thing';
 - (k) refusing to release the investigation report into failures into the integrated electronic Medical Record at 14 hospitals on 10 September 2019; and
 - (l) refusing to release the location of the 16 complaints made at state managed residential aged-care facilities in 2018, that was obtained through RTI; and
2. calls on the Premier to show some leadership and sack the health minister.

Queenslanders have endured almost five years of failed health policies and wrong priorities from the Palaszczuk Labor government. Our hardworking nurses, doctors, midwives and paramedics are struggling to cope on the front line, while Labor wastes money on digital disasters from Cairns to Coolangatta and on renaming hospitals. Our public hospitals are literally bursting at the seams at a time when Labor is cutting Queensland Health's capital budget by \$203 million this year. As a nurse and someone from a nursing family, I was deeply offended on behalf of every nurse in Queensland by the health minister's claims about the \$135 million FAMMIS failures being due to 'user error'. On 9 August, just over a week after the system failure, the minister said—

The concerns I'm aware of relate to the usage of the system, not the system itself.

Unbelievably, the minister blamed hardworking nurses for his own IT stuff-up and failed to take responsibility for policy failures and his constant IT bungles.

In an article published in the *Brisbane Times* on 19 September 2019 titled 'Queensland Health headaches continue as suppliers aren't paid on time', the minister was forced to defend the \$135 million ordering software upgrade following concerns from suppliers about not being paid on time. In subsequent media articles it was revealed that Queensland Health suppliers had lodged around 850 complaints in less than two weeks as changes were made to the trouble-prone medical ordering system. The health minister admitted that extra money had to come out of hospital budgets to pay for extra staff to handle the troubled rollout, although he did not know how much—absolutely clueless. In that same train wreck of an interview, the minister also went on to say—

The fact the phone line was still receiving about 100 calls a day two-and-a-half months after the rollout wasn't necessarily a bad thing.

It just goes to show how out of touch this minister and the Palaszczuk Labor government are. The businesses chasing money for supplies and invoices should not waste their time with chase-up phone calls for money that is actually owed to them. While the minister presides over digital disasters that not only waste precious taxpayers' money but also put added and unnecessary pressure on frontline staff, the statistics speak for themselves. This is the Palaszczuk Labor government's legacy on patient care.

Ambulance ramping across the state is at levels that are close to if not the worst on record. For August—the most recent data released—32 per cent of patients arriving at public hospitals for emergency care were stacked and waited in ambulances for longer than 30 minutes, the clinically recommended time. In some hospitals the numbers were even worse. In my town, at the Gold Coast University Hospital 41 per cent of patients were ramped in ambulances in August, an increase of 12 per cent since the last state election. At Robina in my electorate, 41 per cent of patients were also ramped for longer than 30 minutes, an increase of nine per cent since the last state election. At Logan, 50 per cent of patients were ramped, one in every two for longer than 30 minutes, an increase of 15 per cent since the last state election. At Cairns, ramping increased by 14 per cent in this term under Labor. In Rockhampton, ramping increased by 23 per cent in this term under Labor. In Mackay, ramping increased by 16 per cent in this term under Labor. At Caboolture and PA hospitals, ramping increased by 21 per cent since the last state election. At Redlands, 41 per cent of patients in August were ramped longer than 30 minutes. At the Sunshine Coast University Hospital, in August 45 per cent of patients were ramped for longer than 30 minutes, an increase of 21 per cent. So much for the Premier's promise at the last state election to provide better local health services.

Surgery wait times are blowing out under Labor. For August, the median wait time for surgery was 38 days, an increase of 35 per cent. That is despite a decrease of eight per cent in surgeries across Queensland in the last 12 months. It is no wonder Labor scrapped performance targets for emergency departments and surgery wait times in the annual reports—trying to hide from scrutiny. This minister is a fraud, a phony and a failure. Queenslanders are sick and tired of his 'dog ate my homework' excuses. They want a world-class public health system. They do not want to see petty political games of wasting millions on the wrong priorities like failed IT projects and renaming hospitals instead of providing better patient care for our sickest children.

(Time expired)