




Speech By
Ros Bates

MEMBER FOR MUDGEERABA

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Public Hospitals, Waiting Times; Miller, Mrs J

 **Ms BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (2.25 pm): Labor's surgery waiting lists are out of control and our sickest Queenslanders are paying the price. Some 55,916 Queenslanders are waiting for surgery across Queensland, 623 of whom are waiting longer than clinically recommended. These are not just numbers on a spreadsheet. It is people like Ralph on the Gold Coast, Kate from Far North Queensland or your mum, son or grandma. These are real people with real stories. What is clear is that, while Labor's health minister gives them false hope, it is only the LNP that will give our hardworking nurses, doctors, midwives and paramedics the support they need. It is only the LNP that has a plan to slash hospital waiting lists and to get our hospitals working again. We will not waste money on renaming hospitals or on endless digital disasters. We will make patient care the No. 1 priority.

As a registered nurse of almost 40 years, I know how hard it is on the front line. I know what life is like, the focus and determination that our health staff show on every shift and the toll that that takes. We will not be silenced in speaking out and raising these issues, and this week proves why. After breast cancer survivor Kate Yeoman bravely told her story and showed the world her physical scars on the front page of the *Sunday Mail*, she was given more false hope from a foolish health minister. It is thanks to the public pressure of Kate and the other breast cancer survivors that we were able to shine a light on one part of Labor's surgery waiting list horrors that helped 25 women waiting for breast reconstructive surgery after battling and beating breast cancer get flown to Brisbane to finally get their surgeries booked in.

We also saw the brave battle of Ralph Jones from my electorate, who desperately needs a bilateral hip replacement, waiting over 233 days just to see a specialist. Like many Queenslanders waiting for care, the longer Ralph has waited the worse things have become. He struggles to put on his shoes, cannot ride his beloved motorbike and is reliant on painkillers. He was told the waiting list just to see a clinical specialist was 674 days. As a category 2 orthopaedic patient, he should be waiting just 90 days. Ralph is one of 15,088 Queenslanders waiting on the category 2 list of more than 2,000 on the Gold Coast in that category alone. Unfortunately, he has to speak out publicly in the media to get some attention to try and get the surgery that he so desperately needs.

While I am on my feet, I want to say a few words about Jo-Ann Miller. I know the Labor members will not, especially the Premier and the Deputy Premier. She might be on a different side of politics to me and we might disagree about many policy positions, but she is a dear friend, a warrior for her community and someone I deeply respect. From me and my family, I wish Jo and her family all the best in retirement and congratulate her on 20 years of service to Queensland. She will be sorely missed.