



Speech By  
**Mark Robinson**


**MEMBER FOR OODGEROO**

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Record of Proceedings, 16 June 2021

## MOTION

### Health System

 **Dr ROBINSON** (Oodgeroo—LNP) (5.10 pm): I rise to speak in support of the motion moved by the shadow health minister. The people of Queensland, and indeed Redlands coast residents, are feeling more and more disillusioned by the state's failing health system. Confidence and trust is fast being lost at a time during the worldwide pandemic when health should be one of the government's highest priorities. Let me say at the outset that we are extremely fortunate that our hospitals and our ambulance stations are staffed by highly skilled and extraordinary medical professionals and support staff. Whilst they do their very best at all times, they are being let down by a government that is not committed to fixing a major problem—a problem that is fast escalating.

I am on the record in this House as calling for a major upgrade of Redland Hospital. For too long the Redlands community has needed a hospital of an appropriate level that can service the area's growing population—one with an ICU, better palliative care, more beds and a decent free car park. After my lengthy and vigorous campaign to have the current woeful hospital parking situation rectified, I shared the excitement about the news of the construction of a long-awaited car park. However, it comes with some trepidation as it is yet to be confirmed if the hospital parking will soon come at a cost to sick people who can least afford it.

Let us rewind a couple of years when Redland Labor members stood silently by while the IHPA figures for Metro South hospitals, which includes Redland Hospital, showed the state had reduced funding levels to the hospitals over two financial years while federal funding had increased. If it is now a case of trying to play catch-up, it is not working—evidenced by the overwhelming feedback we receive from families who have had to watch loved ones suffer at the hands of a government that should be doing much better in terms of health care.

Apart from cases mentioned by the shadow minister and my parliamentary colleagues, I am personally aware of a patient who has recently been prepared for surgery in one of our major hospitals on three separate occasions before finally striking it lucky and having the very serious surgery on the third attempt. Specialist surgeons and staff share the frustration of patients and their families because they too are witnessing an administration that is obviously broken. Patients are waiting in limbo, not knowing if they will be going into surgery because of the unavailability of ICU beds. How can this be happening in Queensland in 2021? In our great state, it is concerning that so many surgeries are not completed on time. The government should be ashamed and alarmed about statistics that show that people are not being seen in time frames that are clinically recommended.

I am proud of the LNP's work to reduce elective surgery waiting lists during our time in government. However, the number of Queenslanders on the waiting list to go onto the waiting list under Labor is large and growing. This Labor government is overseeing a system that allows patients to be

on the dental waiting list for more than 10 years. A whole decade of dental pain is unimaginable. I feel for those people as they suffer with dental issues and wait for treatment that must seem like a lifetime in coming to fruition. I once was one of them.

Unfortunately, when it comes to ambulance ramping, Redland Hospital is regularly one of the worst, especially during the winter months which is a time when several of our region's senior residents suffer with serious medical conditions. Ramping has been as high as 51 per cent. That is completely unacceptable. Let me share with the House Catherine Santagiuliana's late father's experience. She is a well-known local in our region, alongside the late Eddie Santagiuliana. After waiting approximately two hours for an ambulance with bleeding after a cannula had come out, Catherine's father was made to sit behind the ambulance in a wheelchair in the ambulance section of the Redland Hospital. After 12 hours he still had not received the medical treatment he needed. When told to try again in the morning because it may not be so busy, Catherine's dad said he would rather go and sit under a tree and just die than come back to the hospital. A nurse attended to the cannula during a later in-house visit. Despite his terminal illness, Catherine feels her dad gave up his will to live and sadly he passed away.

In conclusion, the government are losing control. They are clearly losing control of Queensland Health. They have been losing control in metro south, they have been losing control at the Redland Hospital and they are letting Queenslanders down.