




Speech By
Ros Bates

MEMBER FOR MUDGEERABA

Record of Proceedings, 16 June 2021

MOTION

Health System

 **Ms BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (5.00 pm): I move—

The House:

1. notes the Queenslanders who have spoken out to fix the health system:
 - (a) Patricia from Mudgeeraba, who waited months for surgery to walk again;
 - (b) Donald from Mount Gravatt, who is still waiting for his heart surgery after being cancelled and rescheduled five times;
 - (c) Jan from Mulgrave, who is waiting for knee reconstruction surgery, which has been cancelled three times, twice because of code yellow internal emergencies at Cairns Hospital;
 - (d) Stephen from Loganlea, whose wife died in his arms waiting for an ambulance to arrive;
 - (e) Trevor from Caloundra, who was ramped behind 17 ambulances, unloaded in the rain and waited 10 hours for attention in the ED;
 - (f) Ron from Caloundra, whose daughter died after waiting longer than recommended for an ambulance to arrive to resuscitate her;
 - (g) Sue from Caboolture, whose mother had a fall and lay on the floor for hours in agony despite frantic calls to 000 pleading for urgent attention before being ramped at Caboolture Hospital for another four hours;
 - (h) Rob from Rockhampton, who was ramped in the ED for three hours—alongside eight other patients—after suffering a heart attack;
 - (i) Annette from Morayfield, whose elderly brother-in-law, suffering dementia and unable to verbalise his issue, waited hours for an ambulance after a fall; and
 - (j) Anthony from Ipswich, whose dad was delayed treatment for 26 hours in overcrowded Ipswich Hospital; and
2. calls on the Queensland government to take immediate action to fix the health system.

It is incumbent on those governing a state jurisdiction to effectively resource and manage a healthcare system. That is, after all, one of the core functions of a state government: to run public hospitals. Honest Queenslanders across the length and breadth of the state depend on it. They depend on our public health system each and every day. They depend on our paramedics to arrive promptly to an emergency in their hour of need, they depend on our nurses to compassionately care for them and they depend on our doctors to treat them. And don't they do an amazing job! I am proud of, and thankful for, every last one of my colleagues in the health profession who staff our hospitals and health clinics across the state, but they are being let down. They are being let down just like the patients they see each and every day. They are all being let down by a government that is losing control of our health system.

Honest Queenslanders are sick of it and they are speaking up. In recent weeks and months they have walked the halls of this building. They have sat in the gallery. They have visited town halls with others from their community who share the same concerns about a system on its knees. Their voices must be heard. I am proud to say that this opposition has given them one. We have given a voice to

Patricia, Donald, Jan, Stephen, Trevor, Ron, Sue, Rob, Annette and Anthony, and I thank them for being so courageous and for speaking out. In doing so they have shone a light on a health system which is letting them down.

Unbelievably, a member in this chamber, the member for McConnel, effectively dismissed the concerns and experiences of these people. The member effectively accused these Queenslanders of making up stories. She accused them of not telling the truth. It was beyond belief! That comment from the member will not be forgotten. It will not be forgotten by those named in this motion today, and it will not be forgotten by the hundreds and thousands of Queenslanders who have shared their stories with the LNP.

Over the last few days in this place we have heard a lot of numbers—huge sums of money being thrown around, a record health budget—but we know what Queenslanders get with a record health budget under those opposite because we had a record health budget last year. With the last record health budget this is what Queenslanders got: ambulance ramping across the state is the highest in a generation at 40 per cent; an elective surgery waiting list of 55,000 people, an increase of nearly 25,000 in six years; finally, we have the waiting list for the waiting list of 220,000 people, enough to make your eyes water just looking at it.

We heard the health minister rattle off a list of numbers for each hospital and health service and the budget increase from last year. Let me remind the House of some numbers the government does not want to share. These are the ramping numbers across some of Queensland's largest hospitals. In February this year ramping at Logan Hospital was at 53 per cent, up eight per cent from February the year before; at the Royal Brisbane it is 51 per cent, up seven per cent from the year before; at Redlands Hospital it is 51 per cent, an astounding increase of 24 per cent from the year before; at the Redcliffe Hospital it is 50 per cent, a 12 per cent increase; at the Gold Coast University Hospital it is 50 per cent, a 15 per cent increase; at the Sunshine Coast University Hospital it is 50 per cent, a two per cent increase; at the Rockhampton Hospital it is 49 per cent, a whopping 27 per cent increase; at the Ipswich Hospital it is 49 per cent, up 14 per cent; and at the Prince Charles Hospital it is 48 per cent, an 18 per cent increase.

The minister can continue to stand up and read numbers that are convenient for the government. Let the record show that we will continue to stand up too, but it will be to shine a light on the numbers that matter, the numbers that Queenslanders care about. This motion is for the people behind those numbers, the people brave enough to speak out. There will be more, because what really changes in this budget? There is a \$2 billion fund that could not even get a mention as a line item. Mr Deputy Speaker, do you know why? Because the money is not there. It is an empty promise, and it must leave Queenslanders who yearned for a more responsive health system feeling empty. The LNP will make sure their voices are heard.