




Speech By
Ros Bates

MEMBER FOR MUDGEERABA

Record of Proceedings, 28 October 2021

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENT

Health System

 **Ms BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (2.36 pm): Labor are losing control of Queensland Health—no ifs, no buts. They are losing control of Queensland Health. Our health system is sick, and the prevailing symptom is ambulance ramping. It is at 41 per cent across the state. In Victoria it is 33 per cent. In New South Wales it is 21 per cent. Let that sink in. Ambulance ramping in Queensland is nearly double what it is in New South Wales. What is going wrong at Queensland Health? Well, it is bereft of leadership under this minister.

It is not just ramping. These are the facts. In the last two months, there have been two reviews initiated following alleged malpractice. They are happening in Caboolture and Mackay. The review at Caboolture has been wrapped up, and it was given to the Metro North Hospital and Health Service Board on Monday. Unbelievably, people known to the HHS were never offered a meeting to air their concerns.

Take Jody Heywood. Typical of this government, Jody got a call this morning. Only after the glare of the media and opposition scrutiny does this government act. Under this minister's tenure, not only is Queensland Health bereft of leadership; it is bereft of compassion and bereft of decency. There are honest Queenslanders out there who want to know what is wrong at the Caboolture Hospital. They are honest Queenslanders like Jody, like Janelle, like Olivia. If mistakes have been made, they want to know. If other people have suffered from similar complications, they want to know. The people of Caboolture want to know that they can trust the hospital. At the moment, they cannot.

In Mackay, despite it being weeks since a review was announced, we know nothing about the terms of reference. What is going wrong at the Mackay Hospital? What we do know is that the accreditation to train obstetricians and gynaecologists was suspended weeks before the review was announced. The minister did not know about the accreditation suspension or the review. The minister did not know that other clinicians at the hospital had reprimands on their registration. With blind defiance, the minister crowed after question time on Tuesday that there were no doctors with reprimands working at the Mackay Base Hospital after I asked the question. We now know that statement made by the minister was false. There are two, yet the minister could not even bring herself to correct the record without being asked by the opposition. She read out a prepared statement winding back what she said. That is unconscionable.

If the minister cannot even get simple details like this right, how can she be the one to lead Queensland Health out of the crisis which has beset it? The minister is losing control of Queensland Health and honest Queenslanders are paying with their own health.

(Time expired)