



Speech By  
**Stephen Bennett**


**MEMBER FOR BURNETT**

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## ADJOURNMENT

### Wide Bay Hospital and Health Service, Strategic Plan

 **Mr BENNETT** (Burnett—LNP) (9.32 pm): Knowing that Labor is losing control of the health system, I thought it would be useful to review the 2018-2022 strategic plan of the Wide Bay Hospital and Health Service to see how the HHS board is delivering to date. It makes interesting reading. The strategic plan, titled *Care comes first... through patients' eyes*, was co-signed by the current Labor appointed chair and the previous chief executive. I will break it down.

In the welcome note, the plan outlines seven goals that will be achieved by 2022. Goal 1 is to improve community-based services to reduce pressure on our hospitals. Sadly, no community services have been developed and no new subspecialists have been appointed since the demise of the medical school. There was a plan to include appointments for diabetes, respiratory medicine, rheumatology and neurology. Goal 2 is to improve the range of services available locally and regionally to minimise the need for patients to travel. No new services have been introduced since 2019.

Goal 3 is to work towards increasing the level of care under the Clinical Services Capability Framework to level 5, to offer subspecialties and attract high-calibre subspecialty clinicians. This is very important. No new subspecialty appointments have been made, as the medical program became a pathway. Effectively, Central Queensland University has developed a couple of courses that enable students to study locally and then go to UQ. This is not Wide Bay/Bundaberg placement; it is entry to medical school only. More importantly, because there is no medical program, the University of Queensland did not sign off any professorships of the specialties we need to commence new services. With no professorships and no appointments, they have severely failed in this goal because they have not made it attractive.

The next page of the strategic plan again outlines what we will see by 2022. First, it says we will see substantial progress towards a new or significantly refurbished Bundaberg Hospital, including increased access to level 5 services. Do I even need to explain this one? This clearly states increased access to new level 5 specialties, yet none have been announced or stated in any business case to date.

Second, it says we will see an integrated health campus providing training and research in clinical medicine and allied health. The initial site selected for the new hospital was much larger and provided an opportunity for a private hospital, university and research. The current selected state owned site was rejected in round 1 due to flight paths of small aircraft, PFAS, water running across the site and spill from the runway.

Third, it says we will see increased subspecialties available in the region. This has not happened. As predicted many times, health service delivery is getting worse. It proves that Labor is losing control of the health system. If this is not evidence of the Palaszczuk government's complete and utter failure to deliver on their promises, I do not know what is.

The new plan is being negotiated now. For the first time in about 20 years there is no public consultation on what the new strategic plan will look like. I guess that is what we have come to expect: cover-ups and issues within the hospital system. Transparency does not exist and our patients suffer.