



Speech By  
**Brent Mickelberg**


**MEMBER FOR BUDERIM**

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Record of Proceedings, 16 August 2022

## ADJOURNMENT

### Massie, Mr D and Ms S; Moffatt, Mr D, AM

 **Mr MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (7.12 pm): Tonight I want to inform the chamber about two brave Palmview residents from my electorate of Buderim, Darrell and Stephenie Massie. Over the last couple of months, Darrell and Stephenie have been let down by Queensland Health—not by the hardworking paramedics, nurses and doctors, but by the system. Yesterday, they travelled here to Parliament House to share their stories. Darrell and Stephenie made the drive down to Brisbane from the Sunshine Coast to highlight the problems within Queensland's broken health system so they can be fixed on behalf of all Queenslanders.

Darrell was ramped at Sunshine Coast University Hospital for seven hours after arriving via ambulance with a large, painful hematoma—a complication from a recent surgery. A week later, his wife, Stephenie, fell at home and broke her hip and femur. She too was ramped, for about five hours. They say they cannot speak highly enough of the medical staff, who were run off their feet—many working overtime and on double shifts. Darrell and Stephenie say they joined queues of emergency patients waiting in corridors on tin beds and in wheelchairs, all with paramedics waiting hours to hand them over into the hospital's care so that they can get back on the road to help their next patient.

76-year-old Darrell is the victim of two terrible statistics—ramping and the wait list for the wait list. He is going blind from cataracts and was told it would be more than a year before he even gets an appointment, despite being categorised as requiring an appointment within 90 days. After sharing his frustrations in local media, an anonymous good Samaritan has generously donated the money for Darrell to have eye surgery privately at the end of this month. That is great news for Darrell, but, unfortunately, there are hundreds more cataract patients just like him on the Sunshine Coast, all waiting on a long list, losing their independence.

While I have the floor, I would also like to offer my sincere condolences to the family and friends of the remarkable Don Moffatt AM, who passed away last week. Don's achievements were many. He served during the Vietnam War as an Army pilot. His passion for aviation and serving his community led him to chair the former Sunshine Coast Helicopter Rescue Service for 15 years. Then he moved on to be the deputy chair of LifeFlight Australia when the services merged. In 2017, Don was recognised with an AM in the Australia Day Honours List.

His incredible commitment to the Sunshine Coast community was exceptional. Don was a humble man, who would quietly help people in our community without seeking recognition. I remember when I was first elected a young Buderim veteran and his partner were facing eviction due to trouble with their landlord. Don stepped in to help without hesitation and eventually roped me in to help as well. That was the kind of bloke Don was. He did not ask for compliments; he just got the job done.

I, like many, was proud to know him. On behalf of the Sunshine Coast community, I offer Don's wife, Bridget, and his entire family our condolences, and our gratitude for a life of service to Australia, and in particular to the people of the Sunshine Coast.