




Speech By
Kim Richards

MEMBER FOR REDLANDS

Record of Proceedings, 12 May 2022

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENT

Redlands, Health Care

 **Ms RICHARDS** (Redlands—ALP) (2.34 pm): It was timely to receive the health committee's report and read through some of it over lunch. It really validated what we are seeing on the ground in the Redlands. The federal Morrison government is absolutely failing Redlanders, it is failing Queenslanders and it is failing Australians when it comes to delivering on health care and pulling their weight. For quite a few sitting weeks I have listened during question time as those on the other side talk about pressures on our health system. There are some very clear actions that can be taken that will go a long way to providing part of the solution and take off some of that pressure on our healthcare system.

I want to talk about our experiences in the Redlands which I have seen firsthand and which are putting pressures on our emergency departments and our paramedics. We know there are over 39,000 transports to hospital by Queensland Ambulance from 459 aged-care facilities. I can tell honourable members that we have quite a few aged-care facilities out in the Redlands. The member for Capalaba and I regularly visit the Redland Hospital. We know from talking to emergency staff that they can predict the rush times. Nobody should be able to pick the rush times when it comes to an emergency department. We should not be able to pick that pattern. They know that on Friday afternoons the pressure that is put on the emergency department is particularly attributed to patients who have been transported from our aged-care facilities as we lead into weekends.

We know that the Macleay Ward at Redland Hospital has a number of long-stay patients who have dementia. They absolutely deserve to be in more appropriate aged-care settings. It is absolutely disgraceful of the Morrison government to have neglected every single aspect of the royal commission into aged care. We see it on the ground in the Redlands. It is happening right around Australia. That is a really simple thing they could do: delivering the right accommodation for people with dementia.

We know that the same goes when it comes to access to GPs. I can tell honourable members I had a three-hour wait at our GP two weekends ago. Our local GP asked me earlier this year for a letter of support to back in their request for a change to DPA status classification that would allow them to recruit more GPs into our area. Four weeks ago the PHN—the federal government—rejected that request.

Mrs Frecklington: What's Albo going to do?

Ms RICHARDS: Albo will absolutely look at that. Albo will absolutely deliver better health care for every Queenslanders.

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Ms RICHARDS: Member for Nanango, Morrison has absolutely neglected health care. It is only the Palaszczuk government that is doing the heavy lifting when it comes to health care.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Bush): Through the chair, members.

Ms RICHARDS: I will talk about our \$40 million satellite hospital that will deliver better health care closer to our communities, servicing our island communities and delivering for our growing regions. We are upgrading the Redland Hospital to the tune of \$62 million including a new intensive care unit and additional ward beds. We are upgrading the car park. We have upgraded the emergency department and have state-of-the-art maternity—

(Time expired)