




Speech By
Lance McCallum

MEMBER FOR BUNDAMBA

Record of Proceedings, 12 May 2022

HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Report, Motion to Take Note

 **Mr McCALLUM** (Bundamba—ALP) (3.52 pm): This report, after the inquiry into the provision of primary, allied and private health care, aged care and NDIS care services and its impact on the Queensland public health system, has really laid bare in excruciating detail the severe impacts of the federal LNP Morrison government not giving Queensland its fair share when it comes to health care. That includes my local community out in Ipswich.

I want to go into some of the figures and data that have come out through this inquiry process. Transfers from aged-care facilities to emergency departments in West Moreton have increased an incredible amount. Between 2018-19 and 2020-21, there was a 168 per cent increase in the total number of ambulance transfers from aged-care facilities in our health area to ED departments such as the one at the Ipswich Hospital. In raw numbers, that means those transfers went from 335 to 898 over that period. Of those, there was a 316 per cent increase in category 3 and 4 non-urgent transfers from aged-care facilities to the Ipswich Hospital between 2018 and 2021. What has happened over that same period is that the federal Morrison government has made it harder to see a GP and more expensive to see a GP as well as cut services that are publicly funded through Medicare. Is it any wonder there is increasing pressure on state public systems in communities like mine?

The committee report also revealed some pretty stark evidence from submitters. Page 5 of the submission from the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners stated—

In 2020-21 there were over 1.8 million presentations to emergency departments in Queensland, 10.3% of which were deemed non-urgent (category 5) and 32.1% deemed semi-urgent (category 4) presentations ...

They are some extremely stark figures. When we move to the long-stay patients, in West Moreton HHS in my local community there were 37 NDIS and aged-care long-stay patients who were medically able to be discharged out of the hospital in February—that is 37 beds—but they could not because there has been a failure from the Morrison government and continued delays to patients accessing the required Commonwealth funded supports. These vulnerable patients are staying in hospital unnecessarily for months and months at a time on average at the incredible cost of around \$2,000 a day to the state government. In the worst cases, they are there for years.

We heard the member for Bonney in his contribution acknowledging the nurses who are in his electorate, and he made reference to the Gold Coast Hospital. There was an article in the *Gold Coast Bulletin* in February this year which spoke of patients who have been stuck in the hospital on the Gold Coast for two years. It said—

More than 100 patients are spending up to two years at Gold Coast hospitals because they are unable to get aged or extra care. It went on—

Some patients were awaiting NDIS plan approval or review, or a supported accommodation living vacancy, a residential aged care bed, or help that would allow them to live at home.

This is absolutely disgraceful. This is the Morrison LNP federal government treating vulnerable Queenslanders with contempt. We deserve our fair share and we will get that under an Albanese federal government.