




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR OODGEROO

Record of Proceedings, 8 November 2022

MOTION

Satellite Hospitals

 **Dr ROBINSON** (Oodgeroo—LNP) (7.43 pm): I rise to support the motion moved by the shadow minister and oppose the amended motion moved by the government. Tonight I wish to speak mainly with reference to the proposed facility for the Redlands.

First of all, the Redlands facility is not a hospital and it should not be called that. It will not have overnight beds like a hospital. It will not be open 24/7 like a hospital. It will not have an emergency department or full emergency capability like a hospital. It will not have an operating theatre like a hospital. If accuracy in health is important, and it should be, and if patient safety is the priority then the facility should be correctly labelled as some kind of medical centre or health clinic, but not a hospital. Even some Queensland Health officials expressed support for truthfulness in the naming of these medical facilities and spoke up about it. However, they seem to have been ignored. One rightly described them as satellites to the hospitals. Clearly they are not standalone hospitals.

What happens if a Redlands resident breaks an arm, has a serious asthma attack, falls and breaks a hip or needs emergency treatment after hours, such as at 1 am, and presents at this medical centre? Can the Redlands satellite centre fix those situations? No, it cannot.

Another thing that comes up in this debate is the chaotic start to the facility in the Redlands that has never been adequately explained. The Redlands facility started in a very chaotic fashion in terms of location and naming. In the budget papers it was first called the Cleveland satellite hospital. It was then called the Redland Bay satellite hospital and its third name is the Redlands satellite hospital. Why the confusing start with three different names, two of which appear in the government's own budget papers and in ministerial statements? One year in the budget papers it was called 'Cleveland' and the next year it was called 'Redland Bay'. The change in location and name has never been adequately explained. Was its move from Cleveland to Redland Bay, from one budget year to the next, a health measure for health reasons or for political purposes?

The real hospital, the Redland Hospital, has not been prioritised. The needs of the Redland Hospital—an ICU and more beds—should have been prioritised over a new medical centre. Before and through COVID's worst we did not have an ICU or enough beds, despite constant calls from the community and eventual promises. Instead, in the seven years to today we have had no new beds. In fact, there are nine beds less in use at times. At times maternity beds are used for other purposes. We have had the worst ramping in the history of the Redland Hospital. We have had the worst-ever results and, although the health minister would know, she will not release the figures about how it is trending. Is the trend getting better or not?

The upgrade of the real hospital is not on track. The Redland Hospital upgrade has been delayed, which is completely unacceptable. Finally we get it on the books and finally we get it in the budgets, but now we hear that stage 1 is delayed. The car park construction has been delayed. The opening of the car park has been pushed back to 2023. Government members of parliament have said they are trying

to build the satellite hospital quickly. They admitted that the hospital upgrade has been delayed while the satellite hospital goes ahead. Supposedly, it is meant to be at a faster pace. The question is this: has the government's focus on other medical centres contributed to the delays in the Redland Hospital upgrade? It appears so. If you prioritise the build of the medical centre over the hospital expansion then clearly there is a correlation: more effort in one causing a delay in the other.

When we look at our medical needs we need to consider that the Redlands region is growing. Our population of 160,000 is growing and ageing. We are blessed with good hospitals including the public Redland Hospital, although it is under-resourced, the Mater Private Hospital and other centres. Yes, we need more medical facilities, but we need to name them correctly and we need to prioritise things. We could argue about a whole range of other things. The program is running late. We will see whether things are fully operational by May 2023, but I have my doubts about that. We really need the government to get things back on track when it comes to health in the Redlands. We need a guarantee that the new time frames for the Redland Hospital will be locked in and delivered on time.

(Time expired)