




Speech By
Ros Bates

MEMBER FOR MUDGEERABA

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MOTION

Federal Budget

 **Ms BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (4.28 pm): Let us make something very clear in this chamber today. It should serve as a reminder for those opposite about what their roles and responsibilities actually are. State governments run public hospitals—not Scott Morrison and not the Commonwealth government; the state government.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Order!

Ms BATES: Can you pause the clock?

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Mudgeeraba, I will manage the clock. The clock can continue running. You have the call.

Ms BATES: The state government runs public hospitals, and that is the way it should be and that is the way it has been for a very long time. Those opposite are trying to absolve themselves of all responsibility when it comes to one of their fundamental roles—running our public hospitals.

I heard the Treasurer say this morning that Queenslanders had been duddled, denied and done over. He is right because it is the Treasurer who has committed the act of dudding, denying and doing over himself. The Treasurer also said of the Commonwealth budget that they had put words in the budget but no money. The rank hypocrisy of the member for Woodridge was on display for all to see. That rank hypocrisy knows no bounds.

We know the Treasurer loves looking in the mirror, but it obviously was not for long enough this morning. If he had stared at himself a little bit longer and pondered just a little bit more before his ministerial statement, he would have remembered the Hospital Building Fund, worth an alleged \$2 billion, which he announced in June last year. The Hospital Building Fund, which he announced, is non-existent. That announcement was a joke. There is no \$2 billion in the Queensland budget. There is not even a line item. The Treasurer did not even try to hide his shambolic facade. There was no \$2 billion. It is an empty promise.

The Treasurer is an empty vessel with empty promises and empty words. He is full of one thing though—himself. Only someone completely oblivious to their own failings would come in here spouting such hypocritical drivel. It was pathetic. What about the \$400 million over the last three financial years that the government has cut from our hospital and health services? Let me repeat that: \$400 million. This year alone the state Labor government cut \$17 million from Metro South, \$15 million from the Gold Coast and \$14 million from the Sunshine Coast. This was done through what the government calls 'efficiency dividends'. They certainly are doing something efficiently. They are losing control of our public hospitals at breakneck speed.

For the benefit of the House, let us look in the Treasurer's own backyard to see how state-run healthcare services are performing in his part of the world. Treasurer, did you know at the Logan Hospital ambulance ramping is the worst in the state? It is 55 per cent. We know that two patients waited eight hours to be offloaded from an ambulance at Logan Hospital. The two people who waited eight hours could have been the minister's own constituents.

In the Logan Hospital ED, only 43 per cent of patients are seen within recommended time frames. It is the fifth worst ED in the state when it comes to seeing patients on time. When it comes to seeing a specialist, 38 per cent of patients will not see a specialist. That is the second worst record in the state. The Treasurer asked me to talk about health this morning. Well, here it is. What a shameful record! This is the hospital that the Treasurer's constituents go to in their hour of need. What is the Treasurer doing about it?

Ms King interjected.

Mr Watts interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Member for Pumicestone and member for Toowoomba North, stop your quarrelling.

Ms BATES: The Treasurer cut \$17 million from the Metro South HHS—the same HHS which the Logan Hospital is situated in. The Treasurer cut health services for the people in his own electorate. These are the facts.

When are those on the other side going to own up to their own mess? I doubt that they ever will. To do so, they would have to acknowledge a public hospital system which they are losing control of. Thirty-eight per cent of ambulances are ramping across the state; it was 15 per cent when they came to government. More than a quarter of all ED patients are not seen on time. The elective surgery waiting list has nearly doubled since Labor came into government. More than one in 10 now do not get their elective surgery on time. We have a waiting list that would fill Metricon Stadium, with nearly 250,000 people. This is their record.

The Queensland Health crisis is real and those opposite are overseeing it. It is their record for the state hospital system, which they run. It is an absolute disgrace, and Queenslanders know all about it.