



Speech By  
**Ros Bates**


**MEMBER FOR MUDGEERABA**

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**PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENT**

**Health System**

 **Ms BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (2.12 pm): Queensland Health is in crisis. The crisis is real and it is impacting the lives of Queenslanders each and every day. Overseeing our public health system are those opposite, losing control of our public hospitals and ambulance service. Their solution? It is to blame everyone else but themselves. What happens when a government loses control of the health system? I will tell you, Mr Deputy Speaker: people wait years to see a specialist, people do not get seen quickly enough when they walk into an ED, ambulances sit on the end of a ramp waiting to get into hospital for eight hours and code yellows in our hospitals reign supreme. That is what is happening in Queensland public hospitals right now. Our staff on the front line are desperate for change and desperate for help. They are desperate for someone to listen. It cannot keep going on like this.

I want to give some context on the rolling code yellows we in Queensland are facing. Across 2015 our state recorded only 49 code yellows, yet in 76 days alone this year our hospitals had to call code yellows because they were full 57 times. I read the comments of the health minister in that code yellows were not a cause for alarm. The alarms should be ringing loud and clear in the health minister's office. Our staff on the front line are alarmed. Patients waiting eight hours on the end of the hospital ramp are alarmed. People dialling triple 0 and being told there is no ambulance available are alarmed. Code yellows are called when our hospitals are full. There is nowhere for patients to go. It means there are no beds left for anyone needing treatment. It is happening in Queensland now with monotonous regularity, but we should not be accepting it. The reason it is happening is simple—we do not have enough hospital beds in our state. That is widely acknowledged, none more so than by the AMAQ.

For 30 years, successive, long-term Labor governments have failed to build the hospitals Queenslanders need. They failed to plan for our rapidly expanding population, meaning that public health care which Queensland patients can access has been detrimentally affected. The most spectacular failure, of course, has been by this government. Seven satellite hospitals, or 'health clinics' as we should really call them, will not put a dent in this problem. If that is the government's plan to fix this mess, it is doomed to fail. It has no genuine plan. In this third term the government has stopped listening and has stopped acting to fix Queensland Health's crisis.