




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR MUDGEERABA

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MOTION

Federal Morrison Government

 **Ms BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (5.34 pm): How many times do we have to say it to those opposite? The state government runs public hospitals! That is the government's job, yet those on the benches opposite seem to have forgotten it. Instead, it is everybody else's problem: it is the Commonwealth, it is our GPs and it is even our patients. Nobody has been spared from this government's bid to lay the blame somewhere else. Here is a novel idea: do your job. Do the job the state government is elected to do. Don't finger-point. Don't buck-pass. Do your job! Don't shirk it. Do your job! Fix what is going on around Queensland's public hospitals.

Queensland Health is in crisis; that is now a well-known fact. Here in Queensland, ambulance ramping is the worst in the country. Let me repeat that: ambulance ramping in Queensland is the worst in the country. That has been widely reported and accepted. Dozens of ambulance vehicles with police cars are now ramped outside our hospitals. Yes, that is right—police cars, too. So significant are the government's own problems that the effects of the Queensland health crisis are spilling over to other emergency services.

We have not even seen any new data in nearly six months. The numbers for December are the last we have. I wonder why. I doubt it is because the numbers are getting better. Why has the ramping gone through the roof? In Queensland we do not have enough beds.

The Treasurer was out and about again recently spouting his drivel about our healthcare system. He kept saying 'scandalous' this and 'scandalous' that. Here is something scandalous for you, Treasurer: your government has ripped \$400 million from our health system's front line. That is \$400 million from our hospital and health services in the last 30 years. Shame! How is that for a scandal?

What about when the Treasurer was asked about whether he had any regrets for failing to plan for growth in our health system? 'Not at all.' Those were the first words from the Treasurer's mouth when he answered that question: 'Not at all.' Really? What was the Treasurer thinking? The AMAQ is saying we are 1,500 beds short, the Police Union is saying we are 2,000 beds short, and then the Treasurer, when asked if he had any regret about planning for better long-term growth in the health system saying, 'Not at all.' Those were the first words that he could blurt out. Unbelievable! You could not make up this stuff.

That is what is happening right now in Queensland, yet this tired, old, third-term government will not listen. They blame but they do not listen. They point the finger but they do not act. It is time they looked in the mirror. They are losing control of Queensland Health, and Queenslanders are paying the price.