




Speech By
Ros Bates

MEMBER FOR MUDGEERABA

Record of Proceedings, 27 October 2022

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENT

Princess Alexandra Hospital, Accreditation

 **Ms BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (2.00 pm): The Princess Alexandra Hospital in Brisbane is a flagship facility in Queensland and, in fact, right across this country. It is the only Queensland hospital with more than 1,000 beds. It is a proud facility staffed by proud clinicians. Imagine for a moment that the PA Hospital's accreditation to train anaesthetists is under threat. Imagine the potential flow-on effects: theatre lists being slashed and junior doctors potentially left stranded with nowhere to train. Honourable members need not imagine it because it is happening. So real is the threat of accreditation being lost that the only way the hospital can maintain it is by slashing the number of surgeries performed each day. That is a fact. It is outlined in a damning email to staff at the PA Hospital, which the opposition has obtained, and it paints a troubling picture.

This is what the Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists told Queensland Health. According to the leaked email, the college indicated that the PA Hospital was not providing adequate supervision, was changing rosters excessively, was not providing adequate clinical support time—and here is the kicker—the department was not staffed in accordance with the college's guidelines.

Under the threat of having its accreditation withdrawn, the only way for Queensland Health to salvage it was to slash the number of surgeries performed at the PA. That means Queenslanders miss out. They miss out on vital surgery for which they may have waited months, some even years. It is someone waiting to have their cataracts removed, it is someone waiting for their knee replacement and it is someone waiting for a shoulder reconstruction. The Palaszczuk government is losing control of Queensland Health and it is patients like them who are paying the price.

What is really troubling about all of this is it appears the minister did not even know about it. After being questioned by the opposition this morning, the minister painted a very rosy picture of the accreditation being renewed sometime in June this year. Minister, you had best wipe the smirk off your face that you wore this morning because this damning email well and truly—

Mr STEWART: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. It is common—and we were reminded by the Speaker today—that comments need to be directed through the chair, and I believe the member on her feet was not actually doing that.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): I will remind the member to put all comments through the chair.

Ms BATES: The email well and truly shows that things have deteriorated since then. The email, sent in late September, went on to say that it would be disingenuous to offer a time line of when the problem would be resolved. That is in stark contrast to the minister's comments this morning, who seemed to think the problem was fixed. This is the situation at the PA Hospital because of the

accreditation bungle: patient safety was potentially compromised; people to this day are missing out on their surgeries; and clinicians are scrambling with what little resources they have. If that is the minister's idea of the situation being 'fixed' then the minister is even more out of her depth than any of us could ever have imagined. Minister, it is over—

(Time expired)