



Speech By  
**Ros Bates**

**MEMBER FOR MUDGEERABA**

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Record of Proceedings, 8 November 2022

## MOTION

### Satellite Hospitals

 **Ms BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (7.00 pm): I move—

That this House calls on the government to properly name its seven medical facilities under the Satellite Hospitals Program given they will not have:

- (a) overnight beds;
- (b) 24-hour opening hours;
- (c) an emergency department; and
- (d) an operating theatre.

and indicate on what dates each will be open, noting the Premier's 2021 commitment to have each facility completed and operational by May 2023, and what emergency transfer processes will be in place if someone arrives needing critical care.

If ever one wanted a case in point of a government losing control of the health system it is responsible for, they need look no further than those opposite. Bereft at leadership and entirely lacking in accountability, those opposite with the minister at the helm are running Queensland Health into the ground and they have been doing so for nearly eight years. Look at the numbers released yesterday for the September quarter: an elective surgery waiting list growing, ambulance ramping stuck—it is impossibly high at 44 per cent—emergency departments overrun and a waiting list for the waiting list which would make your eyes water. There are more than 272,000 Queenslanders on that list—272,000 Queenslanders hoping and praying to see a specialist. These are not our numbers; they are theirs. They are the numbers which tell every Queenslanders everything they need to know about the Queensland health crisis.

How is the Queensland health crisis going to be fixed? If people had listened to the government over the past two years apparently their satellite hospital program could do the trick. What it really does is tell Queenslanders everything they need to know about how disingenuous those opposite really are. Those opposite put their political survival ahead of the care and wellbeing of Queenslanders. They put their political survival before patients. They will be judged harshly for that. I want to explain what we know about these facilities.

They do not have overnight beds. They do not have an emergency department. They do not have an operating theatre. They will not be open 24/7. They are not hospitals—full stop, end of story. They are not hospitals. Clinics, medical centres, multipurpose health facilities—call them what you like, but they are not hospitals. The Premier said they would be up and running by May next year. They are running late and over budget to the tune of \$15 million.

If your child is having a serious asthma attack, the satellite hospital cannot treat them. If your wife is having an epileptic fit, the satellite hospital cannot treat her. If your grandmother falls and breaks her hip, the satellite hospital cannot treat her and if your dad is having chest pain, the satellite hospital cannot treat him. These are the facts. Treatment in the satellite facilities for those types of conditions

just will not happen. It will not happen because it cannot; they are not staffed or fitted out to look after patients with those conditions and that poses a risk to the patient safety. Precious time would be wasted in emergency situations. Ambulances would need to be called to transport acute patients. A family member already frantic to get their loved one treated in an emergency will be put through even more trauma waiting to be transferred to a proper hospital that can deal with acute conditions. Do not take my word for it; take the words of a senior Queensland Health doctor. This is what they said—

I lobbied for them not to be called satellite hospitals but that is outside my control.

It goes on—

These are satellites to the hospitals, rather than hospitals in their own right.

They also said that ‘they do not work overnight and they do not have beds’. That is a damning assessment. That is absolutely damning. This is what Queensland Health’s own officials say about the government’s promised facilities. It is unbelievable. That is the feedback from inside the tent and here is the feedback from outside the tent. The AMAQ president Dr Maria Boulton said—

We remain concerned about investment in satellite hospitals as they are only hospital by name and certainly not by nature.

Let me repeat that: hospitals by only name and not nature. There it is right there. That lifts the lid on the sham that is these facilities. Imagine someone from this place gallivanting around their electorate saying their community was getting a hospital. Seriously! That is misleading a community if ever I have heard of it. Despite all these things we have now learnt, despite all the criticisms, someone in this place was promising their constituents a hospital. Enter the member for Pumicestone and her A-frame signs at the last election.

This is what those signs said—and we cannot make it up. One said ‘Labor will build a Bribie hospital’. The other said ‘Vote Ali King for a Bribie hospital’ and another one, ‘Vote Labor for a Bribie hospital’. Member for Pumicestone, really? What on this good earth was the member thinking? A hospital, a Bribie hospital? I have said it once in the chamber before and I will say it again. Member for Pumicestone, those photos have aged terribly. That is not what the Bribie community is getting. The member misled them. She has broken the trust of her community. She has broken her promise. The member must have known it was not really going to be a hospital but she went ahead with the sham, anyway. She chose to mislead her constituents.

**Opposition members:** Hear, hear!

*(Time expired)*