



Speech By
Ros Bates

MEMBER FOR MUDGEERABA

Record of Proceedings, 9 November 2022

MOTION

Minister for Health and Ambulance Services

 **Ms BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (5.00 pm): I move—

That this House has no confidence in the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services.

I will be direct: the Minister for Health is in way over her head. She is out of her depth. The way that our hospitals and ambulance services are run matters to Queenslanders.

Government members interjected.

Ms BATES: It matters! It is a privileged position which the member occupies. The portfolio that she is responsible for interacts with the daily lives of Queenslanders more than most in this place. That is why Queenslanders put such a high price on how much they value their health care. They value health care, and they expect the person ultimately responsible for the system to be just that: actually responsible for it. Yet that is not what Queenslanders are getting with this minister.

When substantive and legitimate issues are raised with her, both in this place and outside, she does not listen. When failures are highlighted and a line shone on them there is a total lack of empathy and compassion. The minister has failed to gain any respect within the medical profession, which regards the minister as an abject failure. When things fail, when promises are not kept or when the minister is caught out, she is not accountable. The minister is never accountable—ever. Deflect the issue to the Commonwealth; blame a hospital board; throw GPs under the bus; say it is playing politics; delay releasing the figures; leak our own RTI; and do not release the report in full. Queenslanders will not cop it anymore. They have had enough.

The minister is losing control of Queensland Health and it is Queenslanders who are paying the price. Queenslanders have lost confidence, and that is exactly why this motion has been moved. Queenslanders have no confidence in the health minister anymore. The word on the street from those in the know is that the caucus has entered a state of panic because they have come to that realisation too. Open the paper, Mr Speaker, and read about the health crisis. Turn on the six o'clock news and see the latest footage of the health crisis. Turn on and tune into the radio and you hear about the health crisis. Constituents' emails are all about the health crisis. It is becoming all-consuming, and don't the backbench over there know it.

They absolutely know it, and we hear that it is becoming all too real for some of them. The private anxieties have become whispers, then the whispers became murmurs and now the murmurs have become outbursts. We now have a situation where the minister's own colleagues in this place have lost confidence in her too. Those opposite have a decision to make here this afternoon. I say to the agitators on the backbench and the front bench, 'Here is your chance. Here is your moment.' Those members can show a bit of spine and vote for the motion as it is put. They can send a message to their constituents and say 'enough is enough'. They can say, 'I'm not going to stand idly by and watch the deterioration of public health services in my community under this minister's watch', or they can vote

against it. Should honourable members on that side vote against the motion as it is put, they are saying to their constituents that they are happy. They are saying they are satisfied with the minister's performance and the health crisis which has beset Queensland Health. Good luck selling that to your constituencies.

How will the member for Capalaba vote? The hospital that services his constituents has the worst ramping in the state. He publicly defied the minister and called for his own local board to be sacked. Here is the member's chance to show the people of his constituency that he will not accept it. Or is the member for Capalaba happy to accept the worst ramping in the state? How will the member for Gladstone vote? He represents a community where mothers cannot even give birth in their own local hospitals because maternity services are shut. How will he vote? Is it his job or hers? Member for Hervey Bay, think long and hard about your vote, because ramping and patients not seen on time in the Hervey Bay ED are in uncharted territory.

The minister is running out of people who trust her to do her job. She has pointed blame in so many directions that now they are all pointing back at her. It cannot keep going on like this. Queensland patients have lost confidence in the minister. Frontline clinicians have lost confidence in the minister. Her own colleagues have lost confidence in the minister. If the Premier had not already checked out, she would have sacked her incompetent health minister months ago. Minister, time is up. Abandon ship!

(Time expired)