




Speech By
Stephen Bennett

MEMBER FOR BURNETT

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ADJOURNMENT

Bundaberg Hospital

 **Mr BENNETT** (Burnett—LNP) (6.13 pm): Earlier this month the Wide Bay Hospital and Health Service welcomed its first cohort of regional medical pathway students into the Bundaberg region. This collaboration among CQU, UQ, Central Queensland Health and JCU will train doctors locally from start to finish. In the Burnett, the Bundaberg hospital and health service suffers ongoing shortages for specialists and registrars. Training local students right where they live will hopefully attract and retain them at home in rural and regional Queensland.

This is a great initiative, but the reality at Bundaberg Hospital tells a different story. These eager and excited medical students should rightfully be trained by experienced medical professors once on placement. I have already mentioned in this place the failure of the Wide Bay Hospital and Health Service to meet its own goal of a full-blown medical school. No medical school means no high-calibre, subspeciality physicians in Bundaberg and no professorships allocated to the Wide Bay Hospital and Health Service. Locally, the burden is going to fall on our already overworked senior doctors. This effectively will take 30 per cent of their productive time, and waiting lists will increase even further.

Bundaberg Hospital currently does not have one free hospital bed—not one. Surgical waiting lists are blowing out even further, and the emergency department is jammed full of people who cannot be admitted. Earlier this week, Wayne Thompson from Woodgate in my electorate experienced the shortages at Bundaberg Hospital firsthand. His wife, Robyn, was taken in an ambulance to the emergency department in urgent need of help. She waited outside in the ambulance for two hours. I would call that ambulance ramping at its worst! It is a great example of how bad things are. The ambulance had to leave for another urgent call, so Robyn was left on a trolley in the corridor with no-one to offer her water or a trip to the bathroom. She waited three more hours, along with 35 other people, in the emergency department waiting room. I again call that staff and bed shortages at their worst!

At this point, Wayne made the decision to take her home and try to get the help she needed elsewhere. As a self-sufficient, self-employed man who has never really relied on anyone but himself and has faithfully paid his taxes and Medicare levy, Wayne rightly feels excluded from the service that should have been made available for his wife in good time and by experienced and well-trained medical professionals. They should not have had to give up and go home after a five-hour wait.

How can people like Wayne and Robyn—and many others in Burnett with similar experiences—trust this government to keep its election promises? It seems that this government has tossed out Queensland Health's Clinical Services Capability Framework by claiming that the new Bundaberg Hospital will not be a level 5 hospital but a level 5 'service proposition'. I would call that trying to make

a silk purse out of a sow's ear. It is important that I refer to those documents. I table both the 2017 AMA position statement in relation to how we train our young doctors and the Clinical Services Capability Framework to highlight the failures.

Tabled paper: Document, undated, titled 'AMA Position Statement: Building Capacity for Clinical Supervision in the Medical Workforce' [325](#).

Tabled paper: Document, undated, titled 'Clinical services capability framework v3.2' [326](#).

I will read from the position statement. At 4.1 it states—

... a public hospital senior clinician's time should be set aside for clinical support work.

(Time expired)