




Speech By
Dr Christian Rowan

MEMBER FOR MOGGILL

Record of Proceedings, 13 September 2023

MOTION

Hospital, Performance

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (5.21 pm): I rise to support the motion as moved by the shadow minister for health, the member for Mudgeeraba. This is a government of chaos and crisis, and we have seen that in the last hour. When it comes to fixing and eliminating the number of tier 3 hospital declarations, it does not matter who in the state Labor government is in the top job as premier—whether it is the current Premier or the state members for Woodridge, Murrumba or Waterford. This state Labor government has stopped listening and has stopped caring about Queenslanders. It has to be remembered that the three contenders wanting to be the premier—those being the member for Woodridge, the member for Murrumba and the member for Waterford—have all either held or currently hold the health portfolio.

There is no better example of the ongoing crisis impacting Queensland's hospital and health system than today's report that the highest level of capacity emergency, tier 3, was declared at Queensland hospitals more than 150 times in three months. That is 12 tier 3 declarations across our Queensland state hospitals every week from April to June of this year. What does that mean for Queenslanders? It means that patient care is jeopardised and clinical outcomes are put at risk. It means that hospital capacity is exhausted, with no ability to meet ongoing demand. It means that our hospitals struggle to admit new patients, leaving more Queenslanders ramped in ambulances or, alternatively, left to be transferred to other hospitals. It means that elective surgeries are either delayed or cancelled. Of the 22 hospitals reported, almost a third recorded 10 or more instances of tier 3 escalations. Let us look at just some of the revelations that have been reported today where Queenslanders have seen their hospitals repeatedly placed on tier 3.

At the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital there were six escalations, lasting a total of 204 hours, or 34 hours on average. At the Ipswich Hospital there were five escalations, lasting a total of 180 hours, or over 36 hours on average. At the Bundaberg Hospital a shocking total of over 488 hours were spent on category tier 3 across six escalations. At the Gold Coast University Hospital there were 11 tier 3 escalations, lasting a total of more than 600 hours, or over 54 hours on average. At the Townsville Hospital more than 911 hours were spent at tier 3 across 13 escalations that lasted more than 70 hours on average.

In total, in the three-month period of April to June of this year, our state's hospitals spent more than 7,000 hours on tier 3. This is absolutely outrageous and a complete abdication of duty when it comes to Queensland hospital services under the failed Palaszczuk state Labor government. Unfortunately, Queenslanders have seen this all before—the chaos and crisis and the Labor government mismanagement of our state's health and hospital systems. Under the Beattie-Bligh and now Palaszczuk state Labor governments, we have seen our hospital system in Queensland in crisis.

Our dedicated and hardworking frontline clinicians—our doctors, nurses and allied health professionals—all deserve so much better and they are certainly not getting that from this Labor government. They deserve a Queensland government that acts and provides the support and resources needed to deliver effective clinical care. That is why they go to work each and every day. They want to be able to ply their trade and deliver good clinical services for the benefit of all Queenslanders. The national ambulance coordinator for the United Workers Union spoke an uncomfortable truth for the state Labor government when she stated—

Demand hasn't actually increased in any significant way. The time lost at hospital waiting to transfer the care of patients is what has the greatest impact.

It is appalling that the current Queensland health minister is releasing less information and less data than the former minister for health on code yellows in Queensland hospitals. The state Labor government stands condemned for its abject failure to provide openness and transparency to Queenslanders. That is why the motion as moved by the Liberal National Party's shadow minister for health and ambulance services is demanding the comprehensive transparency that all Queenslanders deserve.

The Labor state government must release real-time health data in line with the Liberal National Party's policy; release the duration of each tier 3 escalation at each hospital, as previously provided; release the number of days each hospital spends at tier 0, tier 1, tier 2 and tier 3 escalation; and also release and provide details on the number of part 9 investigations since 2015. On that last point, part 9 investigations cover some of the most serious and concerning matters throughout our health and hospital system. For the state Labor government to repeatedly stand in the way of providing full transparency on the details and number of part 9 investigations only further demonstrates the contempt this state Labor government has for the people of Queensland. They are saying to the people of Queensland, 'You don't deserve to know.'

Enough is enough. The Labor Minister for Health and the Labor state government should be condemned. I certainly support the motion as moved by the shadow minister for health and ambulance services. Queensland deserves a mature government and a government that will act on health in this state.