




Speech By
Mark Robinson

MEMBER FOR OODGEROO

Record of Proceedings, 22 February 2023

MOTION: QUEENSLAND HEALTH

 **Dr ROBINSON** (Oodgeroo—LNP) (5.30 pm): I rise to support the motion moved by the shadow health minister. The motion notes a number of Palaszczuk government health failures and calls for better information and improved services for Queenslanders. Redlanders are acutely aware that the health crisis continues to fester at our local Redland Hospital under the mismanagement and failings of this Labor Palaszczuk government. This is by no means a reflection on the efforts and dedication of our extraordinary health and allied professionals who do their very best to work under sometimes difficult and demanding circumstances.

Our community was alarmed to learn that, with the exception of Hervey Bay, Redland Hospital scored the worst of all Queensland hospitals when it came to waiting for more than a whole day in the emergency department to be admitted to a bed. Redlands is home to a large proportion of ageing residents, as well as the general mix of families and singles. It is completely unacceptable and shameful that sick or injured Redlanders of any age must wait so long to be allocated a hospital bed. For the worst three months of 2022—June, July and August—there were no fewer than 735 patients at Redland Hospital waiting longer than 24 hours in ED to be admitted. This was also at a time when COVID patients were being treated outside of the main hospital buildings in a tent. With extensive development occurring across the city, it is more than evident that the Redlands population is growing rapidly and there will be additional calls upon health services that are not even coping now. It has become critical that the government heeds the call to deliver sooner rather than later. The further delay of the much needed Redland Hospital upgrade, including an ICU and a 32-bed expansion—and that number has moved about—has been a cause for great concern.

As recently as December 2022 AMA Queensland president Dr Maria Boulton called for urgent action to address alarming concerns about risks to patients at Redland Hospital. Dr Boulton said the staged expansion of Redland Hospital must be delivered not mothballed indefinitely. Hear, hear! At the time Dr Boulton outlined serious concerns raised by AMA Queensland members at Redland, the only metropolitan Queensland Health hospital without an intensive care unit, ICU or critical care unit, without 24/7 general surgical services and inpatient orthopaedic services. Sadly, we are becoming accustomed to worst-ever figures at Redland Hospital under Labor with ambulance ramping having reached worst-ever records in our history at 73 per cent and remaining unacceptably high. It is totally objectionable that our paramedics are having to sit ramped with patients outside the hospital when critical calls for their services are coming in from elsewhere.

The government led us to believe that satellite hospitals are the answer to the struggling health system, only for Queenslanders to learn that construction is behind schedule and the project in the Redlands is well and truly over budget. In the state budget it was announced that Cleveland was to be the site of the satellite hospital when we already had the hospital in Cleveland. The confusion continued until eventually Redland Bay was confirmed as the site. Redland Hospital appears to have been

deprioritised by the health minister in favour of this satellite medical centre. Redland Hospital should have been the priority as promised by the government in the election and the deprioritising of the hospital upgrade, especially during the COVID pandemic, made no sense if caring for Redlanders was the top priority.

Parking at Redland Hospital has been woefully inadequate and troublesome for far too long. While the new car park, when it eventually comes, is a welcome addition, it is overpriced, wrongly prioritised ahead of the ICU and beds and will come at the expense of existing free parking, including staff parking. Redlanders, and indeed people from across the state, are become accustomed to the level of incompetence and poor performance caused by the mismanagement of this government. I concur with Dr Boulton when she says the people of Redlands and the doctors, nurses and other healthcare workers who strive against the odds every day to deliver quality and safe health care deserve better. That is why tonight I renew my call for the health minister to be replaced—a first step in restoring confidence in our health system. All Queenslanders deserve better.