



Speech By  
**Ros Bates**


**MEMBER FOR MUDGEERABA**

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Record of Proceedings, 13 September 2023

**MOTION**

**Hospitals, Performance**

 **Ms BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (5.11 pm): I move—

That this House condemns the current health minister for releasing less information than the former health minister on code yellows in Queensland hospitals, and

1. notes between April and June 2023:
  - Queensland hospitals were on tier 3 for around 7,000 hours
  - Rockhampton Base Hospital was escalated 15 times
  - Mackay Base Hospital was escalated 14 times
  - Townsville University and Caboolture hospitals were escalated 13 times
  - Gold Coast University and Robina hospitals were escalated 11 times
  - Hervey Bay Hospital was escalated seven times
  - Bundaberg Hospital was escalated six times; and
2. notes comments of the United Workers Union ambulance organiser that demand has not increased in any significant way and that time lost at hospitals waiting to transfer the care of patients has the greatest impact; and
3. calls on the government to:
  - release real-time health data in line with LNP 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
  - release and provide details on the number of part 9 investigations since 2015.

How embarrassing for the health minister. She could not authenticate the claims.

**Ms Fentiman** interjected.

**Ms BATES:** It does not matter how much you screech in parliament, it does not make any difference. It is all about how things look not how things are. If that was the minister's audition to be premier, that was a belly flop.

Queensland Health is in crisis. It is not new. It is not by accident and it is not going away under the Palaszczuk Labor government. I do not know how many times we have to say it over here, but there are real consequences for the failures that those opposite are overseeing across our health system. Queenslanders are living in pain as a result. Queenslanders are suffering as a result.

It is being lost on those opposite. They are so mired in their own chaos and crisis that it seems they no longer have the capacity or the compassion to care about those in our community who are frail or vulnerable. Make no mistake, it is not just patients who are feeling let-down; it is doctors and nurses, paramedic and other allied health professionals who are broken too. They are the ones left picking up the pieces of a health system which has buckled under the pressure of a government which has failed to plan, resource and run Queensland's health system with the careful and considered leadership that is required.

One needs to look no further than the shocking tier 3 figures published today which show on 150 occasions the state's public hospitals were at the highest level of a capacity emergency. That is only in the three months of April, May and June. Those numbers are dire. They are damning. There were 15 tier 3 capacity escalations in Rockhampton, 14 in Mackay, 13 at Caboolture, 11 at the Gold Coast University Hospital and another 11 at Robina. It is awful.

I feel for the patients ramped or left waiting in the ED or told their surgeries might have to be postponed during these events. I feel for the staff—overrun and exhausted. They are not just numbers on a spreadsheet, Minister. You have said that before about child safety. That did not go down well.

**Ms Fentiman** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Pause the clock. Member for Mudgeeraba and Minister for Health, you will stop the cross-chamber attacks. Members will direct their comments through the chair.

**Ms BATES:** These are not just numbers on a spreadsheet, Minister. These are real events with real consequences. The minister can put some fancy graphics up on her new website, but fancy graphics do not mean there is more information.

Here are the facts. The former minister—despite her flaws, of which there were many; she is looking very comfortable over there these days—used to provide the number of code yellow or tier 3 instances along with how long each escalation lasted for. If the minister does not believe me, she should go back and check question on notice 92 from last year. There was an instance at the Royal in 2021 where a tier 3 lasted 495 hours—that is 20 days.

Queenslanders no longer get that information under this health minister. We will never know how deep the problems run now. The Queensland public, the media and the opposition now have access to less information. The minister saying she is transparent does not actually make her transparent. Announcements do not fix the health crisis. Faux transparency does not drive accountability or cultural change. If the minister actually wants to be transparent, not just say she is, then she would do the following: release real-time health data in line with LNP 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, 1, 2 and 3; and release and provide details on the number of part 9 investigations since 2015. There is a start for the minister. We have written the health transparency platform for the government in black and white. Go ahead and copy it—like all the other policies we have put up.

The last point is particularly pertinent because those part 9 investigations are investigations like the one at Mackay Base Hospital. That is as serious as it gets. Just like the last minister, this minister will not tell Queenslanders how many of those investigations have happened on the watch of the Palaszczuk government. There is a different minister, but nothing has changed. In fact, this minister is worse. It is a disgrace.

There is one difference with this minister though, and it is her personal attacks. They are low, they are undignified, they are petty and they are spiteful. Those are the words that describe the ministers MO. They are qualities which are unbecoming of the office she holds—

**Mr Dick** interjected.

**Ms BATES:** The Treasurer should know that. Minister, there is a health system, that is your responsibility, which is on its knees out there. There are patients and clinicians who need treatment from and work in the public health system crying out for help. Minister, do the job for which a minister gets paid—focus on the health system in crisis, focus on the people affected, stop pretending, stop the personal attacks and get on with it because Queenslanders deserve better than the Palaszczuk Labor government.