




Speech By
Ros Bates

MEMBER FOR MUDGEERABA

Record of Proceedings, 11 October 2023

MOTION

Liberal National Party, Health

 **Ms BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (2.19 pm): I just cannot get over the fact that we are doing this two sitting weeks in a row, when the Minister for Health—

Mr Harper interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Thuringowa, you are warned under the standing orders.

Ms BATES:—could not substantiate her own motion and had to change it. What is it that the Minister for Health is so obsessed about? Every time I come in here it is ‘the member for Mudgeeraba, ‘the member for Mudgeeraba’. I am not going to get in the gutter with the Minister for Health like she did with Jackie Trad, because they would both beat me with experience every day of the week. Shannon Fentiman, the current Minister for Health, was the worst child safety minister we have ever seen. We know that there were 15 children who died under suspicious circumstances under her watch. As I said back then, she was a fraud, a phoney and a failure as a child safety minister, and nothing much has changed with her in health.

Mr Butcher interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Gladstone.

Ms BATES: I can tell members that what I will not aspire to is a Health payroll debacle of \$1.25 billion. I will not aspire to nurses not being paid and ringing up my office telling me that they need money to buy bread and milk to put on the table. I will not aspire to there being a ‘Tahitian prince’ to defraud Queensland taxpayers of \$16 million. After nine years of a Labor government we have had four health ministers—four dud health ministers. On top of that, we had an assistant minister for health from Mackay who did absolutely nothing when a part 9 investigation was going on at Mackay Hospital. I will not aspire to ambulance ramping at 45 per cent. I will not aspire to 58,000 on the surgery waitlist or 142,000 people waiting to see a specialist.

Mr Butcher interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Gladstone.

Ms BATES: I certainly will not aspire to a long dental waitlist that is now over 100,000. We have put our solutions on the table—better resources, seeing this government has not built bed numbers and those beds are not going to come online until 2026, and better triaging. We need to make sure we have real-time data like I can see in New South Wales right now but cannot see here in Queensland. We have already committed to real-time data in the first 100 days, to put doctors and nurses back in charge where they belong and to listen to the people at the coalface. Listen to the staff at Rockhampton Hospital, member for Keppel. I was there only a couple of weeks ago. Ambulance ramping is at 55 per cent. There were more teal uniforms inside that ED than there were Queensland Health staff and every truck Rockhampton had was on the ramp, so I am not going to aspire to that for Rockhampton.

Mr Saunders interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Maryborough, you are warned under the standing orders.

Ms BATES: Bring on our Keppel candidate Nigel Hutton, who will do a much better job. I am not going to take any advice from the Minister for Health. I am afraid that she sat around the cabinet table for every one of these decisions, and the chaos and crisis that is Queensland Health is firmly at the feet of the Minister for Health.