




Speech By
Ros Bates

MEMBER FOR MUDGEERABA

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Satellite Hospitals

 **Ms BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (2.07 pm): Putting political survival before patient care is a dangerous game. It is a dangerous game because it puts lives at risk. That is exactly what has happened in the Palaszczuk government's decision to name facilities which have no emergency department, no overnight beds and no operating theatres as hospitals.

Let me be clear from the outset: we do not oppose these facilities. We take no issue with the services which are provided in these facilities—none whatsoever. Oncology, dialysis and treatment for minor injuries and accidents are, of course, important health services. That has never been in doubt. Attempts in the House today by the Palaszczuk government to claim otherwise are pathetic and juvenile. Nobody is being critical of the incredible frontline staff working at these facilities. I have seen them in action firsthand and they are amazing. Nobody is being critical of the patients seeking care at these facilities. The criticism is of a tired, desperate, chaotic and crisis-prone government.

The minister was right this morning when she said that Queenslanders are not getting it wrong when they present at these facilities. They are not wrong but someone is wrong here: it is the Premier and the minister. They wrongly named these facilities and they are wrong to continue the facade. Communities were misled in 2020 and these communities will not forgive this government for breaching their trust. These communities were promised hospitals; they got clinics. That is just a fact. What the opposition and, importantly, what others have called for is an appropriate name for these facilities. The AMAQ called these facilities 'hospitals by name, and certainly not by nature'. A senior Queensland Health figure said that they lobbied for these facilities not to be called hospitals. In a leaked recording a senior official said, 'These are satellite to the hospitals rather than hospitals in their own right.' It is not just the opposition calling this out; it is also the peak medical body in this state and staff from within Queensland Health itself.

Unlike the minister, I have worked in resus and I have been to the Caboolture Satellite Hospital. Staff might be advanced life support trained, but they cannot insert an endotracheal tube. They do not have anaesthetic equipment to ventilate a patient. They cannot insert central lines or arterial lines, nor can they administer drugs like adrenaline and amiodarone, put in a chest tube and stabilise a patient hemodynamically until an ambulance arrives. At best, they might be able to insert a laryngeal mask and hand ventilate a patient with an Air Viva bag. They also cannot do closed reductions on fractures as they are unable to administer anaesthetic agents like propofol.

Whistleblowers have told me that they are not even including the word 'hospital' in their brochures or paperwork, and patients have presented there with chest pains thinking it is an ED. Beyond that, these facilities are not what the community was promised. Nowhere is that more evident than on Bribie Island. It was shameful of the member for Pumicestone, knowing full well that these are not hospitals.