




Speech By
Ros Bates

MEMBER FOR MUDGEERABA

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MOTION

Palaszcuk, Hon. A

 **Ms BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (3.49 pm): I would also like to speak on Annastacia Palaszcuk's legacy and leadership. I cannot give all of these accolades to the former premier because most of them happened under four failed health ministers on her watch. The former premier oversaw the Queensland health crisis. Ambulance ramping is the worst in the country. Ambulance ramping sits at 43 per cent across Queensland. In most South-East Queensland hospitals it is 50 per cent or more. It is worth noting that in February 2015 ambulance ramping was 15 per cent. In December 2023 it was 43 per cent.

The premier and her four failed health ministers have overseen the greatest failure in patient safety since the Jayant Patel saga at the Mackay Base Hospital, where dozens and dozens of women were permanently physically and psychologically harmed—some to the point where they will never have children again. This is the same premier who for months refused to launch a royal commission into the forensic lab, despite a deafening chorus of voices highlighting significant failures within the lab. When the commission was finally called, it was revealed that rapists and murderers could be walking free.

With regard to the maternity crisis, Gladstone, Biloela and Cooktown have all been shut this term. Gladstone, a proud regional centre servicing 60,000 people, had its maternity unit shut for nearly a year. Weipa and Chinchilla remain on bypass. Other hospitals like Mareeba, Innisfail, Atherton and Ingham have all suffered from intermittent maternity bypass closures as well.

In the middle of a health crisis, the state government tried to introduce a patient tax. RTI documents revealed that more than 20 people died in just over 12 months while they waited for ambulances. People have died in their loved ones' arms while waiting in their driveways. Patients have died on the ramp. Patients will die at satellite hospitals. Annastacia Palaszcuk has a legacy which is not worth considering.