




Speech By
Ros Bates

MEMBER FOR MUDGEERABA

Record of Proceedings, 18 April 2024

PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Ambulance Ramping

 **Ms BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (2.57 pm): I rise to address some of the comments made by the Minister for Health in this House earlier this week. On Tuesday the minister gave one of her stranger performances in this House when she spent her Dorothy Dixier attacking the opposition over ambulance lost hours. It was bizarre and, to be frank, highly insensitive given that her attack was made on the very same day that the Ipswich Hospital released its findings into the tragic death of Wayne Irving. I want to take a moment to acknowledge Wayne's family, whom I have met, in particular his wife, Barbara, and daughter Lauren. Their search for answers and their bravery in speaking out is to be commended, especially in the face of such devastating grief.

The opposition leader said it perfectly earlier in the week when he said that, of the 162,000 hours ambulances were ramped last year, three of those hours were Wayne Irving. Given this, for anyone to suggest that the time ambulances lose ramped cannot be used as a yardstick or as a genuine measure is quite deplorable. The minister effectively said that the total ambulance lost time cannot be used as a yardstick to measure the performance of the Queensland Ambulance Service—and it is not the paramedics' fault this happens, and it is not that of the doctors or the nurses or the allied health professionals. These are system failures and those responsible are the ones who run the system. It is on them. Lost time counts. It should matter and it does to us, and I will quote the minister directly—

Queensland Health and the Ambulance Service collect and publish hundreds of points of data about how our system is performing, but QAS total lost time is not one of them because it does not accurately reflect the treatment Queenslanders can expect in our emergency departments.

That may well be the minister's view, but it is not a view shared by everyone. It is not just the LNP that does not share that view. I will run through a few people who use total ambulance lost time as a key performance metric. The state's independent Auditor-General uses that metric in his annual health report. The former QAS commissioner used that metric in an all-staff email in May 2021 when highlighting the pressures on the system. The minister's predecessor, now the Attorney-General, used that metric when she received a weekly briefing from the QAS on its performance. And here is the best one: the then opposition leader in South Australia and now Premier, Peter Malinauskis, used it to campaign in the election that many say was won on the back of ambulance ramping. If it is good enough for him, it is good enough for the minister. The minister says she wants to be more transparent. She has profoundly failed in doing that, although I will say this: Queenslanders are now seeing right through her.

Finally, in relation to the ruling made on Tuesday referring to contributions and social media posts on ministerial statements made in the House on 19 March 2024, I would like to advise that I have amended social media pages to reflect that 18 of the 19 Miles government ministers did not make a ministerial statement.