




Speech By
Ros Bates

MEMBER FOR MUDGEERABA

Record of Proceedings, 12 September 2024

PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Health System; Alleged Contempt of Parliament, Apology

 **Ms BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (2.12 pm): At this election the question Queenslanders will ask themselves is whether our hospital system is better or worse after nearly a decade of Labor and who has the right plan for Queensland's future. The list of Labor's failures across the health portfolio is long. It is a tale of woe, but it does not have to be like this. It does not have to be this way.

Those opposite have had their go and their approach to managing the health system has not worked. It simply has not worked. The numbers prove it. Queensland patients waiting years for their surgery or spending time on ambulance ramps proves it. The frustration of staff who are leaving in droves—in record numbers, in fact—proves it. There is no question around the validity of the Queensland health crisis anymore. It is a fact. It is entrenched under Labor. Labor's approach has delivered ambulance ramping of nearly 45 per cent. It was at 15 per cent when they came to power. It has since tripled. We have seen the worst consecutive six months on record.

Those opposite have had their turn. They have had 10 years at the helm of this state and their approach has failed. Things are not getting any better. When first announced as health minister, the minister promised to reduce ambulance ramping to 28 per cent in 12 months. At that time, ramping was at 43 per cent and it is now at nearly 45 per cent. It is worse. They boasted about spending three-quarters of a billion dollars on ramping and ramping got worse. Only Labor could deliver such an abysmal outcome.

What is more, when first announced as health minister the minister promised to reduce the elective surgery waiting list to 56,176 in 12 months. At the time there were 58,446 patients on the list and now there are 61,421. It is worse. The minister promised to reduce the specialist outpatient waiting list to 248,905 in 12 months. At the time there were 281,697 patients on the list and now there are 287,716. It is worse.

By the minister's own measures she has failed. By Labor's own measures they have failed. They have continued to fail over and over again for the past 10 years. They have failed the people who are relying on our health system. They have failed the people who go to work every day in our health system. Those failures include some of the most significant occasions of maladministration in our state's long history. They are failures like the travesty at the Mackay maternity ward and the catastrophic failures at the state-run DNA lab that could see murderers and rapists walking free. Time is up for Labor. Show Labor the door in 2024.

Mr Deputy Speaker, while I am on my feet, regarding report No. 230 of the Ethics Committee, I would like to unequivocally apologise to Mr Speaker and the House for not taking the direction of Mr Speaker.