




Speech By
Hon. Ros Bates

MEMBER FOR MUDGEERABA

Record of Proceedings, 27 August 2025

MOTION

Chief Health Officer, Appointment

 **Hon. RM BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (Minister for Finance, Trade, Employment and Training) (6.15 pm): I rise to support the motion as amended by the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services. Those opposite are so quick to forget a decade of decline under their watch. They are so quick to try to shift blame and take the focus away from their many failings.

The amended motion notes that 'governments should be held to account for issues affecting health outcomes in Queensland'. That includes the former Labor government. We on this side of the chamber do not forget and Queenslanders do not forget. We do not forget the worst health minister on record, the member for Waterford—and that is quite the accomplishment noting the many failures of her predecessors. We do not forget that ambulance ramping numbers went up and up under her watch, despite the member for Waterford's promise that they would fall below 28 per cent within a year of her appointment. They never did fall below 28 per cent, and swanning around the state, taking selfies and soft portrait photos with little old ladies and babies did not help the member for Waterford. It was the member for Waterford who promised to reduce the outpatient waiting list to 248,905 again within 12 months but left the list with nearly 39,000 more Queenslanders on it.

It was ultimately Queenslanders who paid the price for the member for Waterford's failures—Queenslanders who were left waiting for important surgery as the surgery waitlists continued to balloon. It was Queenslanders who were left to foot the bill for Labor's failure to manage the capital program across the health portfolio. We knew before the election that the capex program was going to be blown out. We did not have any idea how many more billions of dollars it was going to be blown out by—a budget black hole under the former Labor government that the Minister for Health now has to try to plug. Money that could have been better spent getting Queenslanders off waiting lists or fixing ever-expanding maintenance backlogs was squandered by those opposite.

We on this side of the House will not soon forget the fascination of those opposite with glossy brochures and media ops, all while Queensland's health assets were left without funding for critical maintenance and repairs across our hospitals and health facilities. Labor failed to plan and failed to budget, with insufficient funds allocated to complete the delivery of their own health commitments.

We saw Queenslanders repay the member for Waterford for all of her many failures in the health portfolio by being the only health minister that all of Queensland sacked. Not content, however, with letting sleeping dogs lie, we see the member for Waterford lining up again—this time for the member for Murrumba's job. If the member for Waterford has Jackie Trad doing her numbers again, perhaps the member for Murrumba will manage to survive Christmas, despite the predictions of the Minister for Health this morning. Only time will tell. If you are going to challenge to be the leader, member for Waterford: (1) do not believe your own publicity; (2) learn how to do numbers; and (3) do not get Jackie Trad and Mark Bailey to ring around and do your numbers for you. If you want to win, do not get them to do your numbers.

Ms Boyd interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Pine Rivers, that was totally unnecessary. You are now warned.

Ms BATES: In stark contrast, while those opposite are enveloped in their own internal factional squabbles, we on this side of the House got on with the job, delivering more for Queensland in 10 months than we saw in 10 years of decline under Queensland Labor. We are delivering \$1.75 billion in the budget over four years, the largest investment in surgery in Queensland's history. We are delivering a \$1.7 billion investment to drive down ambulance ramping, including \$1 billion for the Queensland Ambulance Service. We are delivering the biggest investment in health infrastructure this state has ever seen, with the Crisafulli LNP government's \$18.53 billion Hospital Rescue Plan. We are delivering more healthcare workers and clinicians, growing Queensland's health workforce by over 4,500 FTEs in 2025-26, including 3,350 clinicians.

I take this opportunity to recognise the exceptional results we are already seeing within the health portfolio. We have seen the elective surgery waitlist decrease significantly, with its largest drop since 2015. We have delivered our Hospital Rescue Plan to reverse Labor's decade of decline and get Queensland Health projects back on track. We are working to free up beds and reduce ambulance ramping and we are listening to frontline healthcare workers. We have delivered real-time health data and we have listened to Queenslanders, including our health practitioners. That is why we are putting doctors and nurses back in charge of their own hospitals.