



Speech By
Hon. Ros Bates

MEMBER FOR MUDGEERABA

Record of Proceedings, 15 October 2025

MOTION

White, Ms C

 **Hon. RM BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (Minister for Finance, Trade, Employment and Training) (5.57 pm): I rise to support the motion as amended by the Minister for Health. I echo the comments of the Minister for Health and I wish to also express my sympathy to the family of Christine White for their loss. It is unfortunate that those opposite have chosen to exploit a grieving family in this way. They have no shame.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Ms BATES: Absolutely disgraceful.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: I just called for order.

Ms BATES: As noted by the Minister for Health yesterday, the West Moreton Hospital and Health Service sought to engage with the White family in a sensitive and proper manner. The circumstances of Ms White's admission to the Ipswich Hospital were complex, and the way the Leader of the Opposition and those opposite have sought to exploit this family is shameful. Noting the concerns—which I really do—of the White family, we have moved this amendment to request the director-general to seek the permission of the White family for the government to release a full account of the events surrounding 27 August 2025. It is truly astonishing that any Labor member of this place, particularly the member for Murrumba, can keep a straight face whilst criticising this side of the House, given the decade of decline overseen by those opposite that left the Queensland Health system in a state of chaos and crisis.

It was Queensland Labor that saw ramping triple in this state, and those opposite oversaw the highest ambulance ramping in the nation. It was Queensland Labor that saw the elective surgery waitlist almost double in this state and it was Queensland Labor that left maternity services in communities like Chinchilla, Cooktown and Biloela on bypass. Birthing services were on bypass under the former Labor government for over 3,000 days. The list is never-ending: a litany of failures by Queensland Labor, despite plenty of promises, media releases and sound bites about record funding. Make no mistake: the Queensland health system saw a decade of decline under those opposite. We saw Labor ministers more interested in trying to fix the image of Queensland Health than in actually fixing the problems causing the Queensland health crisis.

Who could forget the worst health minister in the country, the member for Waterford, whose greatest hits record includes a \$12 billion budget black hole, including \$1.8 billion missing to support the existing EBAs for those hardworking frontline nurses and doctors who have been my colleagues for years. There was broken promise after broken promise. It must hurt to be the only health minister to be

sacked by all of Queensland at the last election. The member for Waterford, though, seems to have bounced back, already eyeing up the member for Murrumba's job. It does not even look like he will make it to Christmas. In fairness to the member for Waterford, she was not the only Labor MP to fail Queenslanders in the health portfolio; it was a team effort. Who can forget, for example, that 64,171 Queenslanders were left on the elective surgery waitlist under those opposite? A decade of Labor left the Queensland health system in a dire state.

In stark contrast, the Crisafulli LNP government has gone straight to work healing Labor's health crisis. In June we introduced new laws to put local clinicians on hospital and health boards, putting local knowledge in charge of local solutions for their local communities. We are tackling Labor's ballooning waiting list, with our latest budget including \$1.75 billion over the next four years for elective surgery. We have also announced a record \$33.1 billion health budget, which included a billion dollar boost for the Queensland Ambulance Service and more than \$2.6 billion to support maintenance works across our hospital and health services. We have already outlined our Hospital Rescue Plan to deliver over 2,600 new beds across Queensland as well as invest in a larger health workforce. In fact, under the Crisafulli LNP government, Queensland Health workforce numbers have grown by 4.76 per cent, or more than 5,200 additional staff. We are improving workplace conditions with an in-principle agreement with five of our health EBAs including for paramedics, nurses and midwives, medical officers, Queensland Health staff and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health workers.

Let's not forget that those opposite inherited a ramping rate of 20.3 per cent in 2015 which they allowed to surge to 63.5 per cent. I know what ramping looks like at Ipswich Hospital. I know what Wayne Irving's family look like.

(Time expired)