




Speech By
Hon. Tim Nicholls

MEMBER FOR CLAYFIELD

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Health System, Data Reporting

 **Hon. TJ NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (10.36 am): The Crisafulli LNP government made a promise to Queenslanders that we would get ramping down and stabilise the elective surgery waitlist, and the data is encouraging. The Crisafulli LNP government is delivering on our core commitments after a decade of decline under those opposite. The latest quarterly data—

Ms Boyd interjected.

Mr NICHOLLS: They do not want to hear it. They were very anxious for it two weeks ago, but now they do not want to hear about it. They are mysteriously silent. The latest quarterly data shows that the government is healing Labor's health crisis, revealing that ambulance ramping was 37.3 per cent in the December quarter—the lowest it has been in five years and the biggest single drop in a decade. That is what the data is showing. This is as a direct result of our calm and methodical policy and investments: our record \$1.8 billion investment in elective surgeries that has reduced the elective surgery waiting list by over seven per cent; our investment statewide in transit lounges—including in Gladstone, where I was only last week to announce further investments in that hospital that was shamefully left abandoned by those opposite; and our fully funded Hospital Rescue Plan to deliver more than 2,600 beds across the state.

It also includes instituting the 24-hour patient safety directive those opposite were so against. The evidence and our stakeholders and clinicians were clear: patients staying in ED longer than 24 hours should be a 'never' event. Since our directive, those breaches have reduced by 36 per cent. Beyond our hospitals, the Queensland Ambulance Service estimates that statewide improvements in ramping have delivered a reduction in operational overtime and put approximately 100 hours per day of ambulance capacity back into the system—equivalent to 20 paramedics on the road delivering services.

I want to contrast that to the alternative of those opposite. I want to remind the House what those opposite did. The member for Waterford cut the monthly reporting of health data—removed it from the system. Why did she want to obscure that data? Perhaps it is because she broke her promise to Queenslanders to reduce ramping to 28 per cent within 12 months—it was left at 45.5 per cent—and to reduce the elective surgery waitlist but left it at 64½ thousand. We reinstated monthly data. We are committed to consistently reporting, no matter what the numbers show. We are prepared to stand behind it—we are making the investment—not only when it reveals a record-breaking drop, as I have just reported for the December quarter.

We have three failed former health ministers opposite: the members for Woodridge, Murrumba and Waterford. Labor inherited ramping at 15 per cent and left the quarterly figure at its highest at 45.5 per cent. That was a decade of decline under those opposite. There is more work to be done. We have our work cut out for us, there is no doubt about it, but this data shows we are making a strong start and delivering a fresh start for Queenslanders.