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MEDIA RELEASE

Monday 24 September, 2007

MEDICAL STAFF FEAR HOSPITAL REFORMS WILL COST LIVES!

Independent MLC Ann Bressington has received complaints from healthcare professional regarding reforms at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

In approximately one month the Queen Elizabeth Hospital's emergency theatre staff will be on call rather than located in the hospital. Staff have estimated that it will take at least one hour for them to be prepared and organized to undertake emergency surgery. Many staff live more than 30 minutes away from the hospital and are afraid that they will be delayed in transit and lives will be lost.

"It also appears that the person responsible for these reforms has absolutely NO MEDICAL EXPERTISE OR TRAINING at all," Ms Bressington said.

"In fact, if my information is accurate this person is the equivalent of a child psychologist. Furthermore staff have stated that they have not been consulted on this change and that by raising these concerns they have been accused of being obstructive."

Staff who will now be on call are:

- Theatre Nurses.
- Anaesthetic Nurses.
- Recovery Staff.
- Theatre Orderlies.

According to "Australian and New Zealand Anaesthetic Guidelines" anaesthetic cannot be administered by a doctor until the anaesthetic nurse is present.

"If a delay occurs in transit this means that the emergency surgery cannot go ahead. We have to wonder how the Minister's advisor can justify such a reform and where his information has come from because it certainly is not being recommended by the trained specialist AND professionals who work in the hospital. This government seems determined to completely castrate our public hospital system based on the advice of a child psychologist. These reforms being carried out by the Labor Minister are just "blunder after blunder after blunder!"

This decision has come on the back of the decision to relocate the renal unit at the QEH to the RAH at enormous expense to taxpayers after spending millions of dollars to build it in the first place.

WHAT ARE THEY DOING?