



Dale Last MP
Member for Burdekin

Shadow Minister for Police and Corrective Services, Shadow Minister for Fire and Emergency Services
Shadow Minister for Rural and Regional Affairs

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August 9th, 2021

Media Release – Green needs to look in her own backyard

While effectively disagreeing with some federal colleagues, Shadow Minister for Rural and Regional Affairs, Dale Last MP, has welcomed a Senate Inquiry into GP numbers while highlighting the failures of Queensland Labor to Senator Nita Green.

The Senator claims programs run by the federal government have not worked but Mr Last said, in his own electorate it was the state government itself that “wasn’t working on the problem”.

“I sincerely hope that the Senate Inquiry finds some workable solutions to this problem that is affecting rural and regional communities throughout Queensland and the nation,” Mr Last said. “But, in Queensland at least, Senator Green only need look at her Labor colleagues to identify inaction.”

“There are communities in my electorate that have been without a GP at all in some cases and, despite the fact I have raised the matter with the state Health Minister, Queensland Labor has offered nothing in the way of help.”

“While the federal government increased Medicare rebates in one area in an effort to attract a doctor, all we have had from state Labor is the proverbial crickets.”

Mr Last said he could provide Senator Green with “countless” examples where the state Labor government had failed when it came to health services.

“Clermont’s issues with doctors has been well publicised but you’ve got places like Dysart and Collinsville where the town is solely reliant on one GP,” Mr Last said. “It’s simply unsafe and I’ve reported it to the state government time and time again with little, if any, action.”

“In Bowen, we’ve waited over 12 months for a report into what maternity services are available, when the answer to that is simple; none. The senator can try and blame the federal government all she likes but her state Labor colleagues also need to be held to account.”

“I acknowledge there is no simple solution but, until the state Labor government play’s its part, solving the problem is virtually impossible.”



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