



Dale Last MP
Member for Burdekin

Shadow Minister for Police and Corrective Services, Shadow Minister for Fire and Emergency Services
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Media Release – Clermont locals deserve more than locums

The resignation of another locum Medical Practitioner at the Clermont Hospital poses an immediate danger to locals according to Member for Burdekin, Dale Last MP, who has requested the urgent intervention of Queensland's Health Minister.

Mr Last said that the ongoing issues surrounding doctors in Clermont had resulted in one resident telling him that moving to Clermont was *"the worst mistake he ever made"*.

"The people who live and work in and around Clermont have had an absolute gutful when it comes to accessing the health services they deserve," Mr Last said. "Quite simply, it's time for the Health Minister to intervene and fix this issue once and for all."

"Labor committed to providing dialysis in Clermont at the last election but there are people who need dialysis who can't even get an appointment with a doctor. For a hospital that is touted for increased services to not have a doctor shows that the people responsible have taken their eye off the ball and that could result in a very bad outcome, even a death."

Mr Last said the campaign to attract doctors to the town was being waged on many fronts but that, as evidenced by the current absence of a hospital doctor, the Queensland government was incapable of sourcing a permanent Doctor to the town".

"Mining companies have already injected money into the search for additional doctors and offered incentives and the federal government has increased the rebates available to GP's working in the area," Mr Last said. "But the Queensland Government has remained silent as far as attracting new doctors and can't even ensure there is a doctor at the hospital."

"Throughout regional Queensland we are seeing health services being disrupted and doctors being overworked. This will result in a tragedy one day and for the state Labor government to stay silent, shows they are simply burying their head in the sand."

"Whether it's the recruitment process that needs an overhaul or there needs to be further incentives, something must be done and, up until now, the Queensland Government has done nothing. To leave



Queenslanders, and in this case the Clermont community, without a doctor is basically condemning them to 3rd world medical services and the Queensland Health Minister needs to take urgent steps to ensure residents in towns like Clermont have access to the medical services they deserve.”

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