

Hospital solutions needed

One Nation candidate for Keppel James Ashby said Jarad Marsh's experience is becoming an all too familiar story for residents on the Capricorn Coast.

"Sadly, the Labor government have turned the majority of the Yeppoon Hospital into aged and palliative care beds due to the shortage of nursing homes in our region," Mr Ashby said.

"This leaves just seven beds in the hospital for acute patients.

"While the staff do the best they can to help patients who arrive at emergency, there's no theatre in Yeppoon, no guarantee of a doctor in the hospital overnight, and a massive shortage of nurses.

"Locals are still without x-ray services on weekends and after 5pm on weekdays.

"With a projected 55 per cent population growth between now and 2031, it's One Nation's plan to ensure the Health Department prioritise the services and staff for the Yeppoon Hospital.

"It's counterproductive transporting patients in an ambulance to Rockhampton when we should have the essential hospital services here on the coast."

Mr Ashby said nurses across the region have also raised serious concerns about the workforce attraction incentive scheme which was introduced last year to attract interstate and southeast corner nurses to regional areas of the state.

"The feedback from nurses is that a growing number of their younger colleagues are taking the \$30,000 commencement payment and leaving six weeks later," he said.

"It again demonstrates the flaws in Labor's management of the health system here in Queensland where loopholes of this nature are exploited, and patients are left no better off."



One Nation's candidate for Keppel James Ashby said real solutions need to be found for the Yeppoon Hospital's challenges. (Supplied)

"I find it terribly concerning to think that Capricorn Coast residents are frequently forced to go to Rocky for some of the simplest of health

needs instead of being able to use the Yeppoon Hospital.

"It cannot continue like this and will be a pri-

ority of mine to shine a light on this problem with the next Health Minister and work on real outcomes for our region if I'm elected."

Serious restructure required for state health system

By Trish Bowman

In response to health care crisis across Rockhampton and Yeppoon hospitals, the Nurses Professional Association Australia (NPAA) are calling for change to restructuring back to locally run autonomous hospitals.

NPAA secretary Kara Thomas said the situation at Yeppoon Hospital has reached a critical point, with patients allegedly waiting over 12 hours in emergency without even being triaged due to severe staffing shortages.

"Bed block is worsening from a lack of aged care placements, and the poorly planned location of the new dialysis unit has rendered the helipad inaccessible, putting lives at risk," Ms Thomas said.

"Budget cuts and a shortage of GPs are forcing locals to travel to Rockhampton Base Hospital, which is already struggling to cope.

"Our North Queensland members and patients in the community are reporting these alarming conditions, revealing a systemic issue across the region. Sadly, local health professionals, silenced by government gag orders and fear of reprisal, are unable to speak out about



The Rockhampton and Yeppoon hospitals are feeling the strain. (File)

these dire conditions."

Ms Thomas said this crisis is not isolated to Yeppoon and Rockhampton.

"Across the state, we are hearing the same story. The highly centralised and bureaucratic health system created by Labor and their pow-

erful union allies disregards frontline nurses who are underpaid, overworked, and struggling daily with a dysfunctional system," she said.

"It is time to follow New Zealand's lead, which recently saw the government sack the entire board of Health New Zealand and replace them with a single commissioner charged with decentralising their health system.

"Our health system is a centralised bureaucratic basket case.

"At NPAA, we propose a similar shake-up. Eliminating 80 per cent of the unnecessary top-level bureaucracy by making hospitals locally autonomous will generate savings roughly equal to the entire nurse wage budget.

"This would provide ample funding for a well-deserved 25 per cent pay increase for nurses and help curb the mass exodus.

"The health system must be decentralised, following a model of reform designed by nurses, not politicians, bureaucrats, or ALP nurse union officials.

"NPAA is actively campaigning for a restructuring back to locally run autonomous hospitals through our 'Go Local' campaign."

love yourself,
love others.



 245 Musgrave St, North Rockhampton 4701

PH: 07 4927 7954
www.loveheart.com.au



 loveheartadultshop

 Love Heart Adult Shop

1266943-SM07-24