



**Frances
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Independent State MP for Florey

MEDIA RELEASE

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NO HOSPITAL IS SAFE WITHOUT RESOURCES!!

Frances Bedford, Independent for Florey, wants the ambiguity about safety at Modbury Hospital sorted out once and for all.

An angry Ms Bedford said the Modbury Hospital had become a political football in State seats in the North East of Adelaide, and no-one with the power to take action wants to take responsibility.

“Meanwhile lives are put at risk, and the quality of care is compromised, as a result of indecision and buck passing.”

“There’s an epidemic of ‘spin’ in the health system making it hard to work out what’s really happening. Yet, there are obviously so many problems. Who can we trust to tell us the truth?”

“The Liberal Party gave undertakings before the election, which they keep assuring me were made on strong advice. Among them, they agreed that re-instating higher levels of care at Modbury was important, as well as providing palliative care infrastructure and the EECU. Yet, no work has started.”

“The ALP gave different undertakings based on the advice they said they’d received in the last months of government – after overseeing the disaster of Transforming Health.”

“Either someone is not being honest or they’re getting really bad or inaccurate advice. Everyone praises frontline staff so the problem must be elsewhere. Is it ‘senior health bureaucrats’ or the Health Department? And who is responsible for ‘flow’ and the ‘discharge areas’ in the hospital system which were supposed to help?”

“People keep talking about ‘safety’ in the health system. Sadly, no hospital is safe if it is not resourced appropriately, and at the moment you would have to say that appears the harsh reality in every hospital throughout our system.”

“Ramping ambulances are the visible sign of something seriously wrong. And they are part of the frontline, serving the public so well. I am grateful the Ambos are raising issues that need attention. I share their frustration. We’ve all heard the excuses before. Now something needs to change.”

Safety in any health system is a major consideration. A widely referenced quote about Modbury Hospital alleging safety issues is from the 2011 Bersten Report and does NOT use the words ‘unsafe’ or ‘dangerous.’

“I have signatures from 200 medical, nursing and health professionals who work at Modbury Hospital who believe it is possible to safely provide better and higher levels of care. They tell me the report didn’t say a co-located ICU was necessary.”

AMA President Professor Tam has been quoted in *The Advertiser* saying ‘a system-wide rejig’ could safely increase the complexity of services at Modbury hospital “without the need to also add an ICU to (a) stand-alone HDU”. In a general hospital setting, less than 20% of HDU patients ever need transferring to an ICU. The report said a stand-alone HDU would be quite safe at Modbury **with appropriate staffing and support**. Other hospitals already have stand-alone HDUs – e.g. Burnside Hospital and Fremantle.”

Part of the problem when speaking about higher levels of care for Modbury Hospital is the naming of the service. “I am told a HDU delivers the same care as a Level 1 ICU, so that’s what I’ll be referring to from now on.”

“I listen to my constituents. And to local GPs and health professionals who work at Modbury, who we all acknowledge do their best to deliver quality care for everyone. There may be differing views, but the proof is in the experiences being reported to me - day in and day out.”

“It’s time for a full inquiry via a select committee not just into Transforming Health, but the wider SA Health System, including GP interface, ambulances, aged, disability and mental health services. We have to get to the truth and make obvious short-term improvements now - while sorting out how to cure the long-term maladies plaguing the system.”

Further Information: Contact Frances on 8263 2666