



# **RACHEL NOLAN MP**

## **Member for Ipswich**

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### **STATEMENT**

#### **IPSWICH HOSPITAL EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT**

I have had extensive discussions today with both the Executive Director of West Moreton Health, Ms Pam Lane and the Health Minister's Office.

The Ipswich Hospital Emergency Department is currently providing full services to the people of Ipswich and we are working together to ensure that there is no disruption to the services Ipswich people receive. This is my highest priority.

The Ipswich Hospital Emergency Department usually has 27 full time Emergency Department staff.

Due to the nationwide doctor shortage, caused by the Federal Government's failure to train enough doctors, we rely on OTDs to make up some of those positions. This is unfortunate (we should have enough of our own doctors) but entirely normal for regional hospitals.

Recently for different reasons some OTDs have left, leaving Ipswich with 6 Emergency vacancies.

Services at the hospital are not being interrupted because 3 senior doctors from other parts of the hospital are working paid overtime to cover some shifts.

On behalf of all Ipswich people, I very much thank those senior doctors and the regular ED staff for their goodwill and their effort. I ask that they continue that service until the OTDs which Ipswich Hospital has recruited can get their accreditation and start working.

In the long term I also call on the Federal Government to train more Australian doctors so as to resolve the underlying doctor shortage which plagues regional communities and which has caused this situation.