

~~Mr RICKUSS: I forgot to mention that it is \$80 billion worth of Labor debt. I am sure the member for Mount Isa is very interested in what the Treasurer, Tim Nicholls, is saying around the state and will sit there and weigh up what can be done about some of this debt.~~

~~I would also like to highlight the great rain that we had over the weekend in the Lockyer electorate, and virtually right around South East Queensland. I think it extended into Central Queensland as well.~~

~~Mr Krause: It was soaking rain, wasn't it?~~

~~Mr RICKUSS: It was good soaking rain. Some of the recordings from my electorate were: 160 millimetres at Spring Bluff, 173 millimetres at Holidon, 125 millimetres at Flagstone, virtually 180 millimetres at Gatton, 166 millimetres at Laidley and 115 millimetres at Glenore Grove. The rainfall was very widespread. Lockyer Creek, Ma Ma Creek and Laidley Creek all rose by a metre or so. This is the sort of good soaking rain that will give a bit of security for the future. It will give us a good start. A bit of grass will grow in the paddocks, which is good. It is early enough. I think some of the areas in the member for Beaudesert's electorate got quite a downpour as well. I think it was six inches across most of the area. There is water security for Bill Gunn Dam and Lake Claredon. I think that Moogerah Dam and Maroon Dam will also get some inflows. This is important for our Fassifern and Lockyer farmers.~~

~~I am glad the Minister for Community Safety is in the chamber at the moment because there is another issue that still arises. I speak of the number of people who still drive into floodwaters. I have a press release from the department's website which outlines that a person was rescued at the intersection of the Boonah Fassifern Road and the Cunningham Highway near Boonah. Someone else was rescued on Coleyville Road, Coleyville near Rosewood. Someone was pulled to safety at Golf Links Drive, Gatton. How stupid are people? They have to start to realise that if it is flooded—~~

~~Mr Cripps: Forget it.~~


~~Mr RICKUSS: forget it, particularly at night. I take that interjection from the minister. If it is flooded, forget it, particularly at night. The cars are made out of plastic and fibreglass and a lot of fairly light material. They have four pumped up tyres that give the vehicle buoyancy. Smaller cars that drive into floodwaters just get washed off the road. Even a ute was washed off the road recently on the Downs and a helicopter rescue was needed for the people. This is just crazy. People have been drowned in the Lockyer as recently as 2013 by driving into floodwaters. Please do not drive into floodwaters when you do not need to. It is really important.~~

~~I was talking to Bill Hallas, who is one of our local stock and station agents. He was getting quite upset that he was selling stock that was underweight and people were really depressed about it all. So hopefully this rain will take a bit of pressure off a lot of farmers around Queensland. It does not rain grass but it does give you a bit of hope. The dams get full and it gives you a little bit of time to sit down and think. I think that is what the farmers and the landholders needed. If people have any issues, please seek help—seek assistance from the department and seek assistance from community groups like beyondblue and those sorts of organisations. Please seek help if you are under pressure. Do not just self-assess and sit there mulling over it.~~

~~Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Ruthenberg): The time for MPs has expired.~~

HOSPITAL AND HEALTH BOARDS AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction

 **Hon. LJ SPRINGBORG** (Southern Downs—LNP) (Minister for Health) (12.01 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Hospital and Health Boards Act 2011 for particular purposes. I table the bill and the explanatory notes.

Tabled paper: Hospital and Health Boards Amendment Bill 2014.

Tabled paper: Hospital and Health Boards Amendment Bill 2014, explanatory notes.

I am pleased to introduce the Hospital and Health Boards Amendment Bill 2014. Workforce reform is a key strategy under the *Blueprint for better healthcare in Queensland*. The introduction of individual employment contracts for senior employees, including doctors, represents a key step to rationalise and simplify the industrial relations framework within the public health system. Individual contracts ensure performance, productivity, accountability, quality, more flexible value for money and

patient care. Modern high-performing service industries rely heavily on performance based contracts to deliver better, additional and enhanced services.

As part of the introduction of these contracts, consultation has been ongoing with senior doctors and their representatives. Last week I met with the chairs of the state-wide clinical networks and the committee of clinical specialists. I am taking on board their positive solutions. I have given a firm commitment to these doctors that a ministerial directive would be put in place to ensure that there could be no adverse determination by the director-general pending the passage of legislation. This legislation will ensure that a provision which currently exists and has existed for the past 15 years, and could be used to the detriment of doctors, will be removed.

The bill represents one outcome of consultations with senior doctors and their representatives. Specifically, during consultations concerns were raised that the director-general, under the Hospital and Health Boards Act 2011, could issue or amend a health employment directive, and the directive could prevail over conditions of individual employment contracts for senior doctors. To address these concerns, this bill proposes that senior doctors' contracts will prevail over health employment directives in the event of inconsistency between a contract and a directive, providing the certainty they desired.

Furthermore, the bill also ensures that increased remuneration or other benefits of a health employment directive will apply to senior doctors regardless of inconsistency with an individual employment contract. This allows benefits provided for by a health employment directive to flow on to employees on a high-income guarantee contract. That, of course, includes such things as pay rises where they should be able to just flow on automatically.

Additionally, the bill ensures that the conditions of a high-income guarantee contract prevail over employment regulations made under the Industrial Relations Act, section 193(2), or the Hospital and Health Boards Act, section 282. I commend the bill to the House.

First Reading

Hon. LJ SPRINGBORG (Southern Downs—LNP) (Minister for Health) (12.04 pm): I move—


That the bill be now read a first time.

Question put—That the bill be now read a first time.

Motion agreed to.


Bill read a first time.

Declared Urgent

 **Hon. LJ SPRINGBORG** (Southern Downs—LNP) (Minister for Health) (12.05 pm), by leave, without notice: I move—

That, under the provisions of standing order 137, the Hospital and Health Boards Amendment Bill be declared an urgent bill.

This will allow the bill to pass through its remaining stages at this week's sitting. The reason for that is that it has followed extensive consultation with senior doctors. It is a two-page amendment bill. It quite clearly keeps that particular commitment. The parliament does not sit again until the early part of May. Therefore, it is important that it has the opportunity to pass this week. Given the fact that it is a small bill, that will provide ample opportunity for members to be able to properly consider it.

 **Mr PITT** (Mulgrave—ALP) (12.06 pm): I rise to oppose the motion put forward by the Minister for Health to again put another bill through this House at short notice. Queenslanders deserve better than a government which continues to run roughshod over our parliament. The Premier said after his historic swing against him in Redcliffe that he was going to start listening. He said that he has learnt his lessons. Since then all he has done is continue to show the arrogance of his government. This is a government that picks a fight with the Public Service. It picks a fight with the community sector. It picks a fight with the legal profession. It picks a fight with the medical profession. I am actually struggling to find any group in this state of ours where the government has not actively gone out and sought to show that it is a government that will do whatever it takes—and, sadly, that means not listening to Queenslanders.

This is a Premier who lacks the leadership to bring the community together. Actually he lacks the leadership to bring his own party together, but we can discuss that at another time. What we know is that they are using this process of putting this bill through the parliament in short order to again run

roughshod over the democratic process that we have—to run roughshod over anyone who has a different point of view.

What we have here is a serious issue of the government introducing Work Choices style contracts in our state to senior health professionals. I note that the minister says senior medical officers have been consulted on this change. I would like to find out if all of them have. I wonder if ASMOF, who continue to be demonised by this Premier, support this. My guess is no. Certainly what they know and have made very clear is that they would like to see the Industrial Relations Act actually change in this state. This is a piecemeal option. This is to show, in terms of a public-facing media approach by this one-trick pony Minister for Health, that this is them apparently listening. Well it is not. If they genuinely wanted to listen, they would give this bill—albeit I admit it is a two-paragraph bill essentially; it is very short. But at the end of the day that is not the point. We have seen time and time again in this House that they continue to push legislation through in a hurry without the opportunity for people to have any sort of scrutiny of it whatsoever.

I believe this is the 17th bill that has been declared urgent in this term of government by the LNP. Seven passed on the same day they were introduced; three passed the day after they were introduced; and three passed two days later. When you start adding these things up, this is not a government that really wants to do anything in terms of listening to Queenslanders. As I said, this is a short bill and I accept that. But what we know is that this is the sort of bill you get when you make a mess of negotiations and erode whatever trust people had left in this government.

017 There are very good reasons why even legislation as small as this should be considered by committees and have proper scrutiny and analysis. The parliament deserves to hear what people's views are. You can understand why people might mistrust this government. This government has not had a good record when it comes to negotiating employment terms and conditions with Queensland workers. In fact, it said to public servants before the last election that they had nothing to fear. From reports today we know there is shrinkage of the Public Service in Queensland by more than 15,000 since the LNP came to office. We know that we cannot trust a word they say when it comes to dealing with contract negotiations and enterprise bargaining in this state. Forgive us, Minister for Health, if we do not sit here and accept every time you move an urgency motion before the House that we should do exactly as we are told.

When reflecting on the urgent bills that have been passed through the House, let us have a look at what the member for Caloundra said. In 2011 the member for Caloundra said that he was appalled at the notion that legislation be rushed through the House. This is an urgency motion and I continue to speak on the urgency motion.

Mr RICKUSS: I rise to a point of order.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Watts): Order! Member for Lockyer, what is your point of order?

Mr RICKUSS: Relevance. The member is straying from the relevance of this motion.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I remind the Manager of Opposition Business to speak to the bill.

Mr PITT: I am not sure how much more relevant I can be when I just used the words 'urgency motion'.

Mr Rickuss: Only after I stood up.

Mr PITT: If the member for Lockyer wants to talk about irrelevance, I think he only needs to look in the mirror. This government is becoming irrelevant. As we heard from the opposition leader today, it is becoming the laughing stock of Australia. It is an embarrassment—

Government members interjected.


Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

Mr PITT: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker, for your protection. In 2011 the member for Caloundra said he was appalled at the notion that legislation could be rushed through the House. He said that scrutinising legislation was—


... exactly what we are required to do as an opposition. An opposition is required to drill down into and to quiz and question the government on the clauses within the bill. We support the bill, but that does not mean that we do not have an obligation to drill down and ascertain the true intent of the bill and look at the various clauses and make certain they stand up to scrutiny.

The irony is that at the time the member for Caloundra made those statements he was the shadow health minister. Interestingly, we will never know whether this whole doctors crisis could have been averted if he was the health minister in Queensland when there was a change of government. He held that portfolio right up until the election. He believes in the scrutiny of legislation. It is a shame

that the Minister for Health doesn't. It is a shame the Minister for Health will not also engage in proper negotiations and start again, as most people have suggested, instead of a ham-fisted approach to keep stacking on top a range of different issues that are not being addressed because there is a clear public outcry about the way they are handling, or mishandling, this doctors contract crisis in our state. The opposition will not be supporting this urgency motion, and I do not think any other member should either.

 **Mrs CUNNINGHAM** (Gladstone—Ind) (12.12 pm): I rise to speak to the motion to bring this bill forward. From what the minister has said, I note that it is a fairly short bill. It addresses the concerns of doctors in terms of their job security. I also note it will be six weeks, if my maths are right, before we sit again. Therefore, whilst I hold concerns with urgent bills in terms of our ability to get a full understanding of the matters and to have an opportunity to speak with people who may be affected, my belief in this instance is that the matters have been very publicly canvassed and the bill, albeit a very short bill, is curative in nature. We will have until Thursday to ensure that the matters of concern to doctors—at least the matters covered by this bill of concern to doctors—are adequately addressed.

Given the urgency of medical help, given the importance in my electorate of security of doctors, the tenure of doctors and the availability of doctors in our public hospitals and my value of all of the people who work in the hospitals who rely on doctors being available to give them direction, advice and help, I support the bill being passed or considered this week.

 **Hon. LJ SPRINGBORG** (Southern Downs—LNP) (Minister for Health) (12.14 pm), in reply: Can I just say that there is no conspiracy in trying to rush this through the parliament? I do have enormous respect for this parliament and I am one who would very reluctantly stand in this place and suggest this particular course of action, for all the reasons the honourable member for Mulgrave outlined beforehand. We should always approach these sorts of things with a level of reluctance, but I think it is important that we address a number of issues raised by the honourable member for Mulgrave.

The real challenge that we have is the continuous shifting sands around these negotiations. The only consistency we have had was originally from the AMAQ, then from the VMOs, which has been absolutely consistent, and now from the AMAs through their federal president, Steve Hambleton, who came to me some weeks ago and said, 'We have a number of issues we could like to address in terms of reassurances and guarantees for doctors.' I said, 'That is fine; if there are genuine issues we have always said that we will deal with those issues.' We are not going back to the changes to the Industrial Relations Act because they are a matter of public policy of this government.

Ms Palaszcuk interjected.

Mr SPRINGBORG: And you have an ideology in opposition.

Ms Palaszcuk: A crisis of your own making.

Mr SPRINGBORG: I will put our tenure and our administration of public health and all of the things that we have done up against those opposite because the key performance matrix—

Ms Palaszcuk: What does the public think of you? Hopeless.

Mr SPRINGBORG: In which way?

Ms Palaszcuk: The public.

Mr SPRINGBORG: The member for Inala's former leader, the then Premier, said it was so dysfunctional that it should be torn apart. We did not tear Queensland Health apart. We built it up to now be the best-performing public hospital system in Queensland.

Mrs Miller interjected.

Mr SPRINGBORG: Isn't it interesting that the honourable member for Bundamba is trying to tie this in with what happened in Bundaberg where a surgeon went rogue and caused harm to patients under their watch? We are worse than that? We had people dying in the back of ambulances because of bypass. We had people waiting up to 13 years for routine dental procedures in the state and all of the outcomes which have been so adverse with regard to that. There has been very little consistency with regard to the process of discussions and negotiations.

Ms Palaszcuk: You are not up to the job.

Mr SPRINGBORG: The queen of privatisation, the honourable member for Inala, who privatised more in this state than anyone else has, who also got rid of hundreds of workers by privatising them along the way, has the audacity to stand up in here and make such an interjection.

When you go into a process of negotiation and discussion, you like to at least have consistent goalposts. If you go to Suncorp Stadium, the goal posts are in the same place when you start the game as when you finish. When you are dealing with radical unions that is never the case. Tony Sara said in his own e-mail: we have to teach this government a lesson. He used all sorts of terms around fascism. He said that people should be terminated for their support of contracts. He actually said that this should go on for months and months and months. Reasonable doctors who want this issue addressed reasonably are saying these are the solutions and suggestions they are asking for. We entered discussions a number of weeks ago with six issues. It grew to eight issues. We had an agreed solutions document that put out solutions to those issues. One of the issues was around the director-general's powers which have existed either in their own right or with the Public Service Commissioner for the previous 13 years to be able to change an employment contract or an employment agreement without reference to the employee and in detriment to the employee. The interesting thing is that that provision existed for the entire time that those opposite were in government and they had no concern about it. Doctors have actually suggested—

018 **Mrs Miller** interjected.

Mr SPRINGBORG: The only hospital that shut down was under the auspice of the member for Bundamba when the Caboolture Hospital lost its emergency department. People who were seriously injured actually turned up to that emergency department and then had to go to Redcliffe and, as a consequence, suffered adverse outcomes leading to death.

They are 15-year-old laws. The doctors have actually asked for these to be addressed. They actually have more concerns, which are being addressed, with regards to the issue of the addendum. This is a two-page bill which seeks to reflect the fact that doctors consider that this is a matter of urgency. Even those opposite, who are very, very well resourced for an opposition, have some capability to read these amendments over the course of the next two days and to actually judge whether or not they are going to support their passage through this parliament by Thursday evening. This is not about the Industrial Relations Act. The Industrial Relations Act is a matter of government policy. If those opposite want to actually have that fight, they can fight their way at the next election. This is clearly about amendments to the Hospital and Health Boards Act to make it very, very clear that doctors will have their interests protected by the removal of a provision which has existed in Queensland law for 15 years—during the whole time that those opposite were in power. That provision allowed for a director-general or Public Service Commissioner to make a determination to change an employment condition which could be detrimental to the employee, in this case a high income employee, which is a doctor.

There will also be an opportunity over the next two days for Luke Forsythe, who is a good friend and campaign worker for the honourable member for Bundamba, to write all the opposition speeches that he so wishes. I have absolutely no doubt that he will do that in order to overcome—

Mrs Miller interjected.

Mr SPRINGBORG: I am inviting him to write their speeches, as he no doubt will. What we see is a destructive opposition that is not interested in actually abiding by or reflecting what doctors have been asking for. They have actually asked for a curtailment of a provision which has existed in Queensland law for some 15 years. That is why this particular motion has been put to the parliament. Even the honourable Mr 'Patience' over there should be able to read this in two days and come to some form of considered opinion.

The parliament does not come back till early in May—around 6 May—which is in five to six weeks. It is absolutely important that those doctors who have asked for this, whether it be Dr Steve Hambleton, the specialist committees, the clinical networks or a whole range of other doctors—and I have spoken to hundreds of them who have said that they want some certainty in legislation. We provide this certainty. This legislation actually does that.

Division: Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

AYES, 68:

LNP, 63—Barton, Bates, Bennett, Berry, Bleijie, Boothman, Cavallucci, Choat, Cox, Crandon, Cripps, Crisafulli, Davies, C Davis, T Davis, Dempsey, Dickson, Dillaway, Dowling, Elmes, Emerson, Flegg, France, Grant, Grimwade, Gulley, Hart, Hathaway, Hobbs, Holswich, Johnson, Kaye, Kempton, King, Krause, Langbroek, Latter, Maddern, Malone, Mander, McVeigh, Menkens, Millard, Minnikin, Molhoek, Ostapovitch, Powell, Pucci, Rice, Rickuss, Shorten, Shuttleworth, Smith, Sorensen, Springborg, Stevens, Stewart, Stuckey, Symes, Walker, Watts, Woodforth, Young.

KAP, 3—Hopper, Katter, Knuth.

INDEPENDENTS, 2—Cunningham, Wellington.

NOES, 8:


ALP, 8—Byrne, D'Ath, Miller, Mulherin, Palaszczuk, Pitt, Scott, Trad.

Resolved in the affirmative.

Debate, on motion of Mrs Miller, adjourned.

~~CHILD PROTECTION (OFFENDER REPORTING) AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL~~

~~Introduction~~

 ~~Hon. JM DEMPSEY (Bundaberg LNP) (Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services) (12.29 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Child Protection (Offender Reporting) Act 2004 for particular purposes and to make related minor and consequential amendments to the acts mentioned in schedule 1. I table the bill and the explanatory notes. I nominate the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee to consider the bill.~~

~~Tabled paper: Child Protection (Offender Reporting) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2014.~~

~~Tabled paper: Child Protection (Offender Reporting) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2014, explanatory notes.~~

~~I am pleased to introduce the Child Protection (Offender Reporting) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. This bill amends the Child Protection (Offender Reporting) Act 2004, CPORA, and the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000, PPRA, to give effect to the government's commitment to introduce more stringent monitoring of sex offenders and impose tougher conditions for offenders on the national child offender system. The bill strengthens the current reporting regime for child sex offenders by increasing the number of times convicted child sex offenders will be required to report their details to police from once each year to four times each year. Those offenders who pose a significant risk of re-offending will be required to report more frequently than the mandated reporting requirements. The number of times and the way in which these high-risk offenders will be required to report will be determined by the police commissioner, depending upon the level of risk an individual offender poses at any given time.~~

019 ~~The commissioner already has the power to alert the public about registered sex offenders who are missing. This government's policy is that a sex offender who is missing for more than three months will be considered a danger to the community and regarded as deliberately evading police. The commissioner can take this into account in deciding when to release information to the public.~~

~~Child sex offenders will no longer have seven days in which to make their initial report to police after they receive a notice of their reporting obligations; rather, offenders will be required to make an initial report to police at the time of receiving a notice for their reporting obligations. However, a sense of reasonableness must still prevail when requiring any person to attend the police station for any matter. Accordingly, if an offender cannot reasonably comply with this reporting requirement, up to seven days leeway to make an initial report is allowed for in the bill. Offenders who are not in Queensland when an initial report must be made will be required to make that report within seven days of returning to Queensland.~~

~~Seven days is a consistent theme in this bill. The time frame associated with reporting changes for personal details and plans to travel outside of Queensland has reduced from 14 days to seven days. Interstate offenders who have been in Queensland for seven consecutive days, either on holiday or for work, must report to police within seven days. There is no longer any requirement for offenders to be advised of this obligation in their home state. This government will not tolerate the migration of child sex offenders to Queensland. The types of personal information that are required to be reported to police have been extended to take into account the prolific increase in social networking sites marketing specifically to young people. In this regard, offenders will be required to report any social networking sites they are using or intend to use, including passwords used to access those sites.~~

~~Offenders will also have to report when they no longer live at a particular address. This amendment closes a gap in the legislation that only requires offenders to report a change in their residence when they take up a new residence, allowing them to avoid reporting if they move from place to place.~~