



Speech by

**Mr DOUG SLACK**

**MEMBER FOR BURNETT**

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Hansard 26 May 1999

**PRIVILEGE**

**Answer by Minister for Health**

**Mr SLACK** (Burnett—NPA) (9.30 a.m.): I rise on a matter of privilege. Yesterday in this Parliament, I asked the Minister for Health a specific question regarding the closing of the "outpatients general practice clinic" at the Bundaberg Base Hospital. In answer, Minister Edmond clearly misled the Parliament by referring to the specialist clinic of the base hospital when I specifically asked about the outpatients general practice clinic which, as will be seen from the notice that I will table, will close on 10 October this year.

The Minister further attempted to hoodwink the Parliament when she said that "...the clinic has changed its name to the Ambulatory Services Section." I table a letter from Dr John Wakefield, Acting Director of Medical Services, referring to the impending closure and his advice to the writer—an outpatients general practice patient—to seek the services of a private general practitioner. There was no mention of an impending name change and the maintenance of the outpatients general practice clinic, because the service was clearly going. I am also aware that there are thousands of signatures to a petition protesting against the decision to close the outpatients general practice clinic.

The Minister, by somewhat gleefully attacking me and making the claims that she did, has scurrilously attempted to mislead the Parliament and I ask that the matter be referred to the Members' Ethics and Parliamentary Privileges Committee for its consideration.

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