



Speech by
Jeff Seenev

MEMBER FOR CALLIDE

Hansard Wednesday, 2 September 2009

**CRIMINAL CODE (MEDICAL TREATMENT) AMENDMENT BILL:
DECLARED URGENT**

Mr SEENEV (Callide—LNP) (10.22 am): The motion moved by the Leader of the House and seconded by the Attorney-General proposes a profound suspension of the standing orders of this place. It proposes that a bill that was introduced into this parliament last night after the dinner break can be passed into law in a period of less than 24 hours. To justify such a profound suspension of the standing orders, a situation would need to be very urgent indeed. The opposition and I do not believe that the government has made a case that this bill seeks to address a situation of that urgent nature.

The points that have been made this morning by both the Leader of the House in moving the motion and the Attorney-General in seconding the motion in regard to the provision of certainty to the medical profession are valid. The bill itself contains transitional provisions that allow for the retrospective application of the amendment, which will provide that security to the medical profession. The case for urgency has not been made by the government.

This bill deals with issues that are the subject of very strong opinions by people not just within this parliament but within the community generally. It is fair and reasonable that the people who have the responsibility to make the decision about this bill have the normal period to consider those issues fully. There has been no case made for the suspension of that normal period. There has been no reasonable case made that as members we should not have that normal period to consider these issues fully. Because of that, the opposition will be opposing the motion moved by the Leader of the House.