




Speech by
Grace Grace

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

Hansard Thursday, 13 October 2011

MENTAL HEALTH WEEK; LNP DOSSIERS

 **Ms GRACE** (Brisbane Central—ALP) (2.48 pm): I join Premier Anna Bligh in urging Queenslanders to get behind an international campaign reminding young people bullied over their sexuality that it gets better. I support the Premier in the lead-up to Mental Health Week, because I firmly believe it is important to acknowledge that life can be complex and being a teenager can be tough and that, at the end of the day, if they seek help it can get better.

But it does not get better for the LNP. We have had an extraordinary outburst this afternoon from the member for Callide, coming in here trying to defend the actions of the LNP in securing the services of an ex-ALP staffer in providing dirt files for members of parliament on this side of the House. No way can they defend their actions. It was an extraordinary outburst when the member for Callide earlier today told the media that he believed that officials appointed by the party may have to go. But he comes in here this afternoon, a few minutes later, with an extraordinary change of mind. He has now decided that that may not be the case and has defended the actions of the LNP. It is an extraordinary backflip, and I ask the question: what phone call did he receive between making the statement and coming into the House this afternoon?

These facts are relevant. The LNP paid for the material. The LNP commissioned the dirt files. The LNP wrote the cheques that paid for the dirt files that are now spread across eight pages of the *Courier-Mail*. The LNP approved the invoices. It has nothing to do with the ALP and everything to do with the LNP members, because they are the ones who have dirt on their hands. They are the ones who are out there looking to use this material. Because they have been exposed, they now come into this House to try to have us believe that they had no intention of using this material. If that was the case, why did they commission the information? Why did they pay money to have it done? And why are they in here today defending those actions?