



Speech by


**Annastacia Palaszczuk**

**MEMBER FOR INALA**

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## QUEENSLAND HEALTH, PAYROLL SYSTEM

 **Ms PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Leader of the Opposition) (2.51 pm): Once again this morning we saw the Minister for Health wasting time and effort on playing politics instead of fixing the Queensland Health payroll. Today we saw a recycling of arguments about access to cabinet documents of the previous government. We saw the minister recycle claims that these past cabinet papers are the magic key that will somehow solve the payroll problem. They are not, and the minister knows it.

The minister now attempts to put a further spin on that story by claiming that legal advice given to the former government is vital to rectifying the problem. It is not, and the minister knows that too. Yet in the same way as some other LNP ministers, the Minister for Health shows he is more interested in gloating than governing. He and other ministers are focused on the past, not the future. The Minister for Health knows what is in the legal advice he seeks. He said this morning that the advice to which he seeks access shows it was not an option for the previous government to sue the payroll technology provider.

**Government members** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mrs Cunningham): Order! The Leader of the Opposition is not taking interjections. I call the Leader of the Opposition.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I point out to the minister that, according to the *Cabinet Handbook*—and I table the *Cabinet Handbook*—he can already access certain opinions 'which are essentially legal rather than political documents'.

*Tabled paper:* Governing Queensland: The Queensland Cabinet Handbook [206].

Perhaps he should ask his colleague the Minister for Information Technology for the advice he seeks. I understand that her department has inherited the documentation the health minister seeks. However, if that avenue is not open to the minister, in the public interest I am prepared in this instance—and this instance only—to forward a copy of the legal advice in question to the Crown Solicitor. I will do so for the sole purpose of the Crown Solicitor providing any other advice to the government on this matter.

Mr Springborg should then have no excuse for his failure to give his own employees top priority. The truth is that the Minister for Health has always had every piece of information he needs to address the payroll issue. There are multiple published reports by independent consultants. He has access to any relevant officers in his department and other departments and agencies. He has the very same director-general as the last health minister. The question is: does he want to solve the problem? Or does he give higher priority to re-prosecuting arguments that actually do nothing to assist the people—

**Government members** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Madam Deputy Speaker, can you stop the clock?

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! Stop the clock.

**Mr Bleijie:** Table the legal advice.

**Ms Miller:** Oh, shut your mouth.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! Excuse me, that is unparliamentary. Withdraw it please.

**Ms Miller:** I withdraw.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Just listen to what I am saying. Madam Deputy Speaker—

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** It is paused.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Or does he give higher priority to re-prosecuting arguments that actually do nothing to assist the people employed in his own department?

Mr Springborg's politicking on this issue needs to end. I call on him to stop pursuing purely political attacks and inflicting more trauma on any Queensland Health workers still affected. They are the ones he should be concerned about. You have the avenue. There is the Queensland *Cabinet Handbook*. Follow it.

*(Time expired)*