



Speech by


**Jo-Ann Miller**

**MEMBER FOR BUNDAMBA**

Hansard Wednesday, 31 October 2012

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## **APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL AND APPROPRIATION BILL: HEALTH AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE**

 **Mrs MILLER** (Bundamba—ALP) (10.10 pm): It gives me great pleasure to speak in the debate tonight, particularly in relation to Health. I will touch on a few areas of Health that are very important to the people of Queensland. The first is in relation to the shutting down of the beds at Eventide. I thought that, for the benefit of the House, I should at least talk about a couple of the emails I have received. One of them—I am quite happy to table it for the House—states—

Dear Ms Miller,

I don't care what anyone says that it's BEST for our State. It is morally wrong to kick people out of nursing homes. Saying they will relocate them is deplorable. The elderly do not like change and to put people who require high medical attention through this stress is absolutely disgusting. As far as I am concerned ANYONE who agrees with this decision has no empathy and deserves what's coming to them when they need love and support when they reach their own twilight years. I am ashamed of Queensland's current leader.

I table that letter.

*Tabled paper:* Email, dated 30 October 2012, to the Bundamba electorate office regarding nursing home closures [[1468](#)].

I will talk about what is happening in relation to the health and hospital boards. We have the proof here tonight. I have said in this parliament since this government came to power that the Minister for Health has had this ruse going, which is to hide behind the chair and the boards and the CEOs of Health. A letter, which I will table, states—

Thank you for your correspondence ... regarding your concerns about the closure of Eventide Nursing Home, Brighton.

As you may be aware, from 1 July 2012, and under the direction of the new Queensland Government, 17 independent Boards have assumed accountability for the delivery of public hospital and health services that was previously provided by the Health Services Districts.

It goes on—

Each Board has enhanced control over local health service delivery and seeks greater local input from both clinicians and the community.

And here is the rub—

Accordingly, I have referred your correspondence to the Chair of the Metro North Hospital and Health Board Dr Paul Alexander AO for attention and reply direct.

So the minister has no responsibility for this. That is what the letter is saying. It is signed 'Colleen Miller, Office Manager'. The minister has abrogated his responsibilities to the people of Queensland in relation to health. I table that letter for the benefit of the House.

*Tabled paper:* Redacted letter, dated 26 October 2012, from Ms Colleen Miller, Office Manager, Office of the Minister for Health, relating to the closure of Eventide Nursing Home [[1469](#)].

I also want to talk about a couple of other issues. The first one is the sacking of public health nutritionists across Queensland. In the last couple of days the federal government has brought down a

report in relation to obesity and weight gains in Australia. Obesity is a very serious issue. What do we have? We have the LNP government sacking public health nutritionists. Through the chair: Minister, you know that is disgraceful. Public health nutritionists undertake a degree at university in relation to nutrition.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Berry): Order! Member for Bundamba, you have to refer your comments to the chair.

**Mrs MILLER:** I will. The minister knows that public health nutritionists undertake a lengthy degree, and now there are many students throughout Queensland who will have no opportunity at all for work in the public health system.

Finally, I want to talk about hospitals. I just want to know how many hospitals in Queensland this government has an agenda to shut. In my own local area, people are telling me that the hospital at Esk and the hospital at Boonah are under threat. And I would like a guarantee from this minister that he will make sure BreastScreen services right across this state are maintained. In conclusion, the time for blame is over. You have been elected to govern. Get on with it.

*(Time expired)*