




Speech by

Peter Wellington

MEMBER FOR NICKLIN

Hansard Thursday, 23 August 2012

QUEENSLAND HEALTH, IBM CONTRACT

 **Mr WELLINGTON** (Nicklin—Ind) (3.35 pm): I have sat here listening to the government claim time after time how it wants to access all the IBM Health contract documents and related material provided to the last government over the \$1.2 billion failed Health payroll computer system. What the Premier has not told the parliament is that his government is not really fair dinkum about accessing these documents; he just wants to put on a show for the media. The Premier knows that the Parliament of Queensland Act gives our parliament special statutory power that many other parliaments in Australia do not have. The Parliament of Queensland Act gives us the power to order a person to attend and produce documents to parliament. I refer members to section 25(1), which states—

The Assembly may order a person to attend before the Assembly or an authorised committee and also to produce ... any document or other thing in the person's possession.

The Parliament of Queensland Act overrides the common law, it overrides our sessional and standing orders and it overrides the claim that cabinet confidentiality is a justifiable ground to refuse to produce documents. That is a fact. If our parliament moved an order for the production of documents pursuant to section 25 of the Parliament of Queensland Act, those documents would be produced. That is a fact. I table the advice that I have received from the research unit of the Clerk's office of our parliament for the benefit of all members.

Tabled paper: Information briefing from Chamber and Procedural Services regarding orders for production of documents [848].

I understand this Health payroll contract debacle is set to cost Queensland an estimated \$1.2 billion to fix by 2017. I believe that this is a justifiable ground upon which to use these special powers that many other parliaments do not have. This government needs to have all the information that is available so that it can make an informed decision on what legal action is possible against either the computer provider or whomever. Our own health minister is on the record saying that, if the state is to have any prospects of success with legal action, it needs all the advice provided to the former government.

Some members may think that the parliament already has an order to access these important documents, but members need to be aware of the limitations of the motion that we moved last month. The motion only calls on the Leader of the Opposition to produce certain documents to the health minister. The motion is not an order for the production of documents to parliament. The Leader of the Opposition has stated in this parliament that she has done all she can to comply with the motion that this parliament moved as she no longer has possession and does not have possession of the documents. They are with the cabinet secretary.

To reinforce my claim that the Premier is not fair dinkum in doing everything that he can and that he just wants to put on a show to the media, I now table a letter from the Premier dated 9 August 2012. In part, guess what it states—

I am ... aware of the precedence that use of such power would create, particularly when seeking to breach cabinet convention to obtain cabinet or cabinet related documents.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 9 August 2012, from the Premier, Hon. Campbell Newman, to Mr Peter Wellington MP regarding orders for production of documents [849].

(Time expired)