




Speech By
Curtis Pitt

MEMBER FOR MULGRAVE

ADJOURNMENT

Bligh, Ms A; Budget, Debate

 **Mr PITT** (Mulgrave—ALP) (4.30 pm): Firstly, just like the Leader of the Opposition, I wish to place on record my thoughts for Anna Bligh, her husband, Greg, and their family given the news we have heard this afternoon about her being diagnosed with non-hodgkin lymphoma. Some members of this House may be aware that my father suffered from non-hodgkin lymphoma during his time as a minister in this House. That was an extraordinarily difficult time for our family. He certainly battled very hard and fought through it. Several times we thought we were going to lose him. He came through it because he fought hard.

Every Queenslander knows that Anna Bligh is also a fighter. This was particularly demonstrated with her leadership of this state during our summer of natural disasters. She is somebody who will pick herself up and fight this thing all the way. We certainly hope that she makes a full and speedy recovery. She has left a wonderful legacy in his state, despite the things that we hear from those opposite. There was a range of things that happened under her watch which she will be enormously proud of. During the difficult time of treatment for non-hodgkin lymphoma we wish her well.

I rise to speak about the disgraceful behaviour that we saw during the second reading debate this afternoon—pulling up early and ultimately wanting to gag members of the opposition. Those opposite were absolutely ashamed of the budget that they put forward this week. This government is always going to have more speakers than the opposition. There are always going to be more government speakers than non-government speakers.

Certainly what we know is that when we have members of our caucus sitting here waiting to speak, respecting the speakers list, and obviously all fully prepared to speak on the bill but now having to table speeches is what I would consider to be the biggest swiftie we have seen. On Wednesday we saw the government gag debate by guillotining the industrial relations bill. Funnily enough, there was gagging of debate on that bill outside the parliament by not allowing unions and other organisations to communicate with their membership without having to pull on a vote at great expense to their organisations.

Let us be clear, this parliament works because of the relationships that we form. I still believe that a good working relationship is possible. But ultimately an agreement had been reached that we would be sitting through dinner this evening. I think what this shows is that we have to make sure that we always second-guess what is going on because quite frankly we could not trust them when it came to their contract with Queensland and we cannot trust them with the way they are running the parliament.