




Speech By  
**Michael Crandon**

**MEMBER FOR COOMERA**

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**HEALTH PRACTITIONER REGISTRATION AND OTHER LEGISLATION  
AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Mr CRANDON** (Coomera—LNP) (12.36 pm): I rise today to give a short contribution to the debate on the Health Practitioner Registration and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2012, which was referred to the Health and Community Services Committee some time ago and introduced by the Minister for Health, the Hon. Lawrence Springborg. Dental technology and speech pathology are the only remaining professions that are registered under the original Queensland health practitioners registration scheme. All others have now been transitioned to the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme for the health professions. These two professions have not met the criteria for national registration. Indeed, Queensland is the only state that continues to register them. It is deemed that dental technicians and speech pathologists have a very low or no risk to the public and the cost of regulation, therefore, outweighs the possible benefits to the public.

The scheme adds a regulatory burden to dental technicians and speech pathologists—in other words, red tape—and this bill is all about red-tape reduction. As well, abolishing registration will improve workforce mobility, allowing interstate practitioners to practise their professions in this state. As the minister said in his original speech, the bill is consistent with the government's commitment to reduce regulatory burden and red tape. Both speech pathologists and dental technicians play vital roles in the integrated delivery of health care in Queensland. I can speak from personal experience as to the skills of dental technicians in particular. For many years I had a partial dental plate, taking care of a couple of teeth that used to—

**Mr Rickuss** interjected.

**Mr CRANDON:** Methinks Mr Langbroek is doing okay.

I used to take great delight in scaring the living daylight out of my children, and now my grandchildren, by dropping them down and making it look like I was a vampire. They all thoroughly enjoyed that. My nieces and nephews, however, did not enjoy the fact that I would take the teeth out and put them in their hand when they were not expecting it. I cannot do that anymore. It was great fun at the time. It was a learning experience for my children, grandchildren, nephews and nieces. They all still remember it to this day. They thoroughly enjoyed the fun with me and my dental plate.

**Mr Rickuss:** Why can't you take them out now?

**Mr CRANDON:** I am about to tell you. I moved on to implants and crowns a few years ago.

**A government member:** Oh, did you?

**Mr CRANDON:** I will take the interjection because I did not hear what it was and I want to see what it was in the *Hansard*.

**Mr Rickuss:** Did you go to a dentist for that though?

**Mr CRANDON:** I did go to a dentist.

**A government member** interjected.

**Mr CRANDON:** No, I did not go down to the Gold Coast. In fact, I went to a young fellow by the name of Alex Bratic in Beenleigh—a fantastic guy. If anyone in the Logan area is looking for a dentist, Alex Bratic in the middle of Beenleigh is the man to go to. He does a terrific job. He certainly made a few dollars out of me, I can tell you, because I am about to point out to you that I moved on to implants and crowns. Coming back to the point I want to make, dental technicians are truly skilled individuals. It is not just about knocking a tooth together, making it the right shape and what have you; it is also very important that it is not too white or too cream. It needs to match the rest of the teeth in one's mouth. Colour matching is absolutely paramount and, of course, shape and comfort in the mouth is also very important.

There is no doubt about the skills and professionalism of these specialist practitioners. They have the confidence of other professionals that they work with each and every day. It is good that we can reduce the costs of administration and red tape for these groups. With that, I commend the bill to the House.