




Speech By
David Kempton

MEMBER FOR COOK

Record of Proceedings, 16 October 2014

MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Cairns and Hinterland Hospital and Health Service

 **Mr KEMPTON** (Cook—LNP) (2.55 pm): This afternoon the member for Bundamba made an allegation that the doctors who spoke out in the Cairns and Hinterland Hospital and Health Service did so appropriately in relation to the recent ebola scare. I would like to read into the record a letter to the chief executive officer of the hospital from Dr Roxanne Wu as the president of the FNQ SMSA. It states—

An extra-ordinary meeting of the Far North Queensland Senior Medical Staff Association Executive Committee was held at 6pm on Tuesday the 14th of October in response to the suspension of two senior clinicians.

After lengthy discussion and consideration of the interests of both the clinicians and the Cairns and Hinterland Hospital and Health Service, the SMSA Executive Committee has passed the following resolutions unanimously:

1. The SMSA regrets that comments made by the senior clinicians were used by the press in their reporting of the potential case of Ebola virus. The Association did not know of these comments until after they were made. The two senior clinicians involved were commenting on a rapidly evolving situation and with the benefit of hindsight have acknowledged that this was unwise.
2. The SMSA is committed to working constructively with the CHHHS management team to ensure the best health outcomes for the people of Far North Queensland. As a result of this situation, the SMSA has resolved to create a process for responsibly releasing statements to the media, if this is appropriate.
3. The SMSA requests that the District deal locally with the possible breach in the Code of Conduct, resulting in the suspension of the two clinicians. We request that the process described in the Contract of Employment between the District and the SMOs be implemented, as this is the agreed framework for dealing with these matters. It should be separate from the overall review of the management of the Ebola risk patient, to avoid prolonging the process to the detriment of the two clinicians and local services.

We look forward to your response and are available to meet with the CHHHS management team to work towards a speedy resolution of this issue.

Yours truly,

Doctor Roxanne Wu.

Thank you.