




Speech By
John-Paul Langbroek
MEMBER FOR SURFERS PARADISE

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Minister for Health

 **Mr LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (2.46 pm): At the outset I apologise to the young students from Clover Hill State School in the electorate of Mudgeeraba for what they just had to witness from the health minister in his ministerial statement. The triumph of politics over policy that we saw today typifies why this government is holding Queensland back. One of the most senior ministers in this government—repudiated by his electorate just three years ago and now back here in a senior position—was unable to, in a 10-minute speech, do anything but abuse the standing orders. What I am going to ask you to do, Mr Speaker—

Mr Dick interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, this is not an opportunity for you to continually interject when the deputy leader is speaking.

Mr LANGBROEK: I say to those students from Clover Hill State School—student visitors to parliament are usually in year 6—who are here seeing how our parliament is supposed to operate, that the behaviour of the health minister in abusing the standing orders—

Mr DICK: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take offence at that statement and I ask the deputy leader to withdraw.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, members! The standard protocol is that if a member finds something personally offensive and asks for it to be withdrawn, it is withdrawn unconditionally.

Mr LANGBROEK: I withdraw. Let me make a very serious point. Standing orders 234 and 236 relate to the very serious matter of personal reflections on members. In the health minister's diatribe, which went for 10 minutes, he may potentially have offended standing order 236. I will ask the Leader of Opposition Business to analyse *Hansard*. Mr Speaker, we may actually write to you and seek a ruling about what was a clear distraction from those opposite and which is a reflection on how they are conducting government in this term. That is something that should not be reflected in this parliament and should not be reflected for young students who come here to see their member of parliament and to see the parliament in action. That is the example we are setting for them.

This is a member who has already been repudiated by his electorate. He has been given another chance by another electorate. Instead of coming in here and talking about the policies we want to see in the health department—the member made it clear to the minister that they wanted to go and visit a hospital, for which they were given permission. I understand that the member for Mudgeeraba has made comments about her own behaviour and whether it was okayed by the minister.

If those opposite had any information that is inappropriate, do not grandstand and go to the Health Ombudsman; come into this House and behave like a health minister should—someone who is responsible for the biggest part of any portfolio in our government, like the Leader of the Opposition was in our government, to make it work more efficiently, to not turn it into what it was under the Bligh administration under which he was the education minister and the Attorney-General. We deserve better. Those students from Clover Hill State School and all schools in Queensland deserve better. This government needs to get on with the job of providing a plan for Queensland, making sure that we get out of the mire that we were in under Labor and focusing on the things that are important to Queenslanders—jobs for Queenslanders and a better future.