



Speech By  
**Tim Nicholls**


**MEMBER FOR CLAYFIELD**

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Record of Proceedings, 17 September 2015

**PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT**

**Labor Party, Unions**

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (10.52 am): As we reach the end of this parliamentary sitting week I think it is opportune that I raise two issues that are going to be of increasing concern to Queenslanders—they are probably of grave concern to Queenslanders—right now. During the course of this week we have started to see unfolding at the royal commission into union corruption a sequence of events and allegations that would strike terror into the heart of law-abiding businesses and terror into the heart of union members who want to see their union portrayed in the best light possible. What we have seen over the last three days is increasing evidence and allegations that call into question the union leadership in this state. We have seen photos of a former vice-president of the Labor Party, a former national president of the CFMEU and a state president of the CFMEU displayed across the pages of our papers with allegations of the most serious kind.

When we hark back only to January 2014 we had the head of the Queensland Council of Unions in Queensland, Mr Battams, say that he was not aware of any of this type of union corruption. Mr Battams, a long-term member of the QCU, was not aware of this and he hoped it was not here. He supported weeding it out root and branch. We are seeing now clear evidence of it. What do we see today? We see today in the paper 'Union corruption bombshell', detailing a house being built by other people's money. What did we see yesterday? We saw IVF funding being paid for by union funds.

**Mr HINCHLIFFE:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Pause the clock. What is your point of order?

**Mr HINCHLIFFE:** Mr Speaker, you gave guidance to members yesterday about displaying props, and newspapers are props. Unless he is quoting directly from the newspaper and he is quoting directly from today's copy and he wants to table it, which I do not think is necessary for anyone, I think it is a bit of a pantomime that we do not need.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Thank you, members. I call the member for Clayfield.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** Let me read from the headline and let me table this. It states 'Top CFMEU official quits over IVF funding scandal'. I am very happy to table that.

*Tabled paper:* Article from the *Australian Financial Review*, dated 16 September 2015, titled 'Top CFMEU official quits over IVF funding scandal' [\[1114\]](#).

What is disturbing is that this seems to be a normal part of business. That is what the paper says; that is what the allegations are: a normal part of business. Why is that concerning here? It is concerning here because of the dominance of the CFMEU over the Labor government in this state, because of the control they have over the members of this state. Where do we see that manifest itself? We see it manifest itself amongst all of the nominations of the people who thank the CFMEU for all their work: the

member for Waterford, the member for Murrumba, the member for Capalaba, the member for Thuringowa, the member for Ferny Grove, the member for Pine Rivers, the member for Springwood, the member for Bundaberg and of course the member for Bundamba. We see the pattern emerging: union corruption. A strong hand is not on the House; it is in the House.