




Speech By
Hon. Cameron Dick

MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE

Record of Proceedings, 17 March 2016

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Member for Mudgeeraba

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (7.37 pm): I refer to ministerial statements made by me on 11 and 12 November 2015 and 1 December 2015. I have today received from the Speaker copies of multiple letters to the Speaker from the member for Mudgeeraba dated 12 and 30 November 2015, 3 December 2015 and 19 January 2016. For completeness, I also refer to the letter I wrote to the Speaker dated 25 November 2015. Those letters cover a range of topics. The member for Mudgeeraba has raised concerns about the status of the investigation conducted by the Health Ombudsman. I confirm for the House that I wrote to the Health Ombudsman on 11 November 2015. A copy of that letter was tabled in this House on 1 December 2015. In that letter, I raised a number of issues and asked the ombudsman 'to urgently investigate these matters'. I confirm for the House that I did not seek to rely on the powers available to me under section 81 of the Health Ombudsman Act 2013. I do not believe and have never believed that it is appropriate to use my powers to direct the Office of the Health Ombudsman to investigate a political opponent. Rather, I provided all information available to me to the Health Ombudsman and asked him to urgently investigate the matters.

I confirm for the House that both the Office of the Health Ombudsman and the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency have completed their consideration of these issues and have determined that no breach of the member's registration occurred and that actions undertaken by the member were in her capacity as a member of this parliament. I accept these findings and conclusions unconditionally. As a consequence of these findings and conclusions, I accept that the member for Mudgeeraba did not breach her registration obligations or mislead this House. I understand that this has been a difficult issue for the member for Mudgeeraba and I apologise to her.