




Speech By
Hon. Grace Grace

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

Record of Proceedings, 22 March 2017

PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Industrial Relations; Racial Discrimination Act

 **Hon. G GRACE** (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (2.53 pm): I reckon that people outside might think the Premier is nice, but I will guarantee there is not one who will think the member for Kawana is nice. The member for Kawana comes in here and talks about their guidelines. Let me tell you about their guidelines. The code of practice was introduced by the ALP in 2000. When the guidelines came in they were a code established by the Newman government in 2013. They were an ideological frolic by that government at the time aimed at penalising—

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Ms GRACE: Listen: you might learn something. I suggest the most incompetent industrial relations minister this state has ever seen just sit and listen and I will give him a good lesson. The ideological frolic of the Newman government was aimed at penalising those contractors who entered into agreements with conditions they believed they did not like. Similar guidelines were introduced in Victoria and New South Wales. As a result of a successful 2012 Federal Court challenge, the guidelines in Victoria were deemed not to be applicable, so the Newman government deemed all agreements approved by the Fair Work Commission to be compliant with their guidelines. Effectively, this meant the guidelines have been largely irrelevant and unenforceable all along.

The member for Kawana struggles to understand simple industrial principles. He struggled at the time he was industrial relations minister and he still struggles now. The only thing the guidelines did was require contractors to provide workplace relations management plans that are now—

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. I am having difficulty hearing the minister's contribution. Member for Kawana, the minister did not interject on you during your contribution and neither did the Premier. I would urge you to provide a similar courtesy.

Ms GRACE: Remember, this is the same member for Kawana who opposed a particular clause in a bill before this House and he got the wrong clause, so I rest my case.

Once the federal code came into effect, the department advised me that the Queensland guidelines are no longer necessary and are totally obsolete. We went to the people of Queensland at the election and advised them that we would remove all unfair aspects of the previous government's legislation. Removing the guidelines—which was openly done, everyone has been informed—is the last nail in the coffin of the unfair laws introduced by those opposite.

What I really wanted to talk about was the insensitivity of the Turnbull government yesterday, Harmony Day, talking about watering down section 18C. It was an absolutely shameful exhibition. He does not even have the support of his own party, but let me tell you that you have to be desperate in this House when those opposite keep getting the member for Kawana to stand up.

(Time expired)