



Speech By
Hon. Stirling Hinchliffe

MEMBER FOR SANDGATE

Record of Proceedings, 24 October 2017

MOTION

Citizen's Right of Reply



Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE (Sandgate—ALP) (10.36 am), by leave, without notice: I move—

1. That this House notes report No. 177 of the Ethics Committee and the recommendation of the committee that a right of reply be incorporated in the *Record of Proceedings*; and
2. That the House adopt the committee's recommendation and incorporate the right of reply into the *Record of Proceedings*.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

RESPONSE BY DR ROSS CARTMILL, ON BEHALF OF VISITING MEDICAL OFFICERS, TO A STATEMENT MADE BY THE MEMBER FOR BUNDAMBA, MRS JO-ANN MILLER MP, ON 20 AUGUST 2013

On 20 August 2013, the Member for Bundamba, Mrs Jo-Ann Miller MP, made the following statement in the Queensland Parliament:

I take that interjection by the Minister for Health in relation to Tahitian princes. What the minister has is Tahitian doctors ripping off the system in the form of VMOs. We have a situation whereby VMOs have been ripping the guts out of the health system to the tune of hundreds of millions of dollars and the minister is going to let them off the hook. What we have here is white-collar crime. If the VMOs have been ripping off the system, which we understand they have—to the tune of I think \$840 million—because some of these VMOs just happen to be members of the Liberal National Party they will get a get-out-of-jail-free card.

The Hansard record offers no evidence to support this attack on the integrity and professionalism of Visiting Medical Officers (VMOs). A subsequent report from the Auditor General offered no criticism of VMOs. Despite the lack of substance in the criticism, no parliamentary apology to VMOs has ever been offered.

As well as the lack of supportive facts, the severity of the criticism needs to be addressed. I consider any reasonable person would agree the offending criticism of VMOs constitutes a very severe, unjust and unwarranted assessment of the professionalism and loyalty of a group of public hospital medical employees.