




Speech By
Tim Nicholls

MEMBER FOR CLAYFIELD

Record of Proceedings, 21 March 2017

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Performance

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (10.17 am): On Saturday we will see a sporting contest that many sports lovers throughout Queensland have been hoping for eight weeks, since the start of the Australian Football League women's competition, to see happen here in Queensland. We have watched the success of the Brisbane Lions women's team mount until it became obvious a month ago that they were squarely in contention for a grand final here in Brisbane. A month ago they knew that was coming. However, this fumbling, bumbling government has been unable to secure a home grand final—for the first time in AFL history a grand final to be played outside Victoria, to be played here in Brisbane.

The level of the Palaszczuk Labor government's incompetence is breathtaking. We have an employment minister who tells us the youth unemployed are always with us and who as a racing minister could not put a minimum bet on a race until she backflipped last week.

Ms GRACE: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I believe a statement was made that I called youth unemployed whingers. That is not correct. I take offence and I ask that it be withdrawn.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, you take personal offence to the statements related to you.

Mr NICHOLLS: I withdraw, Mr Speaker. What we had was an employment minister who told us that young unemployed are always with us. 'It's a structural issue; I don't think there's much you can do about it.' That is what she said. Stand up and take offence at that one if you do not like it.

We had a police minister forced to resign over what an Ethics Committee report described as a pattern of reckless conduct. We had the appointment of an agriculture minister whose field experience was a vegie patch, while paying her rates and registration was not much of an experience at all. We have a transport minister who finds out about train cancellations on Twitter and then proceeds to see us spending a million dollars a fortnight still paying overtime bills and over \$4 million on buses and taxis because he cannot get the trains to turn up on time.

We have a Treasurer presiding over the worst unemployment rate and the lowest participation rate in the nation. We have an Attorney-General who cannot organise a booze-up on Origin night at a pub. Now to top it all off we have a sports minister who cannot take a sitter at the Gabba. Thirty-nine days into the job and he has spilled the ball right in the square in front of the big sticks. The first women's AFL grand final in Queensland's history and he cannot get the game to go there. That is a kick from in front that even the aimless Treasurer as sports minister would have been able to get through the posts. Four weeks ago we knew it was happening. There is nothing happening.

(Time expired)