




Speech By
Hon. Yvette D'Ath

MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE

Record of Proceedings, 10 May 2017

MOTION: PALASZCZUK LABOR GOVERNMENT, PERFORMANCE

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills) (6.04 pm): What we just heard is a great example of why the member for Mansfield should never fill the position of Attorney-General, because he could not even address his own motion. He did not even identify the systemic failures that we are allegedly covering up.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. If I cannot hear the Attorney-General, I can assure you Hansard cannot either.

Mrs D'ATH: The opposition like to talk about secrecy and redactions. In the LNP's mind, they have redacted the whole of 2012 to 2015. They talk about what happened prior to 2012 and they talk about what happened from February 2015, but apparently nothing happened in between 2012 and 2015. They talk about statistics. Let us talk about statistics! They cannot talk about statistics between 2012 and 2015, because they stopped reporting them. You do not have to talk about the problems when you stop reporting the statistics altogether.

Let us talk about the code black that occurred at the Cleveland Youth Detention Centre that took those opposite two years to get a report on. Then not only did they not want to release it; they challenged it in court, because they did not want the children's commissioner at the time releasing it. When it was released—do not worry about the content—they redacted recommendations.

Let us talk about the failed boot camp in Cairns. Only two youths went to that boot camp. They escaped. They committed crimes. One threatened a 59-year-old woman with a knife. The former attorney-general, the member for Kawana, said that he would conduct an investigation. One week later, they suddenly defunded the boot camp and shut it down, but where is the report about those two youths escaping and offending?

This government is willing to front up. We have released reports where we can. We have provided as much information as we can. God forbid a government and the first law officer should actually comply with the law and follow legal advice! We know that is a very novel concept for the LNP. When they were in government, did they follow advice? No, they deliberately ignored it! The Queensland Audit Office's unredacted report shows that they ignored advice and recommendations on procurements and boot camps.

I will stand by our record against theirs any day, because when it comes to secrecy it was the LNP that changed political donations so that you did not see who was giving them money. It was the LNP that sacked an entire parliamentary crime and corruption committee, because they did not like what they were saying.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. There are members trying to talk over the top of the Attorney-General. I do not mind a reasonable interjection, but when members continually talk with the sole intention of distracting the speaker, it is not on.

Mrs D'ATH: In government, the LNP was all about cover-ups. The safe night out expert panel wrote a report with recommendations about what to do with liquor trading hours. Was it ever released? No! Would that be because they actually recommended winding back liquor trading hours and the member for Kawana did the complete opposite by removing the moratorium disallowing extended hours applications beyond midnight? They had a flood of applications, which meant that pubs and clubs throughout our suburbs were able to trade till five o'clock in the morning. They ignored their own expert panel's report, which never saw the light of day. Those opposite have absolutely no credibility.

We conducted this inquiry. We called it on. We were willing to have these incidents and these serious allegations investigated. We took advice and we released the report. We are happy to take the criticism and have it properly examined again. But you know what? At least as an Attorney-General I am willing to do that. I will take that independent advice, but what I will not do is interfere. I will not do what those opposite did and never—

Mr Walker interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. I apologise, Attorney. Member for Mansfield, you have had a pretty good go. I would prefer not to have your name on the list.

Mrs D'ATH: Those opposite want to talk about the cover-up of systemic failures in this report. Have a look at when most of the incidents occurred. If they want to talk about how youth detention centres were operating in 2012, 2013 and 2014 then they should talk about their record in terms of how youth were treated in 2012, 2013 and 2014 under their watch and the sort of staff they brought into those centres. They talk about systemic failures, but they do not want to talk about their record. They do not want to talk about what they did. They have no credibility on this issue. We are the ones who brought transparency and accountability back to government.

(Time expired)