




Speech By
Joseph Kelly

MEMBER FOR GREENSLOPES

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Haycroft, Mr G

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (2.16 pm): LNP member Graeme Haycroft is the founder of the Nurses Professional Association of Queensland. Businessmen Haycroft claims to speak for nurses and midwives, but the NPAQ is the puppet through which Haycroft pushes his prejudiced views. He has no credibility in speaking on behalf of nurses or midwives.

The NPAQ was founded at a time when the Queensland Nurses' Union, as it was then called, was campaigning against the massive LNP job cuts. The NPAQ spruiked themselves as an alternative to the Queensland Nurses and Midwives' Union. They are not a union. They do not have the democracy of a union and they do not have the strength of a union. As a proud member of the QNMU, I am outraged at Haycroft and his attempted hijacking of the voices of nurses and midwives. He does not speak for me. He is an LNP linked businessman out to exploit fears and push his dog-whistle agenda, not the interests of nurses and midwives. He is in it to make a buck. That is what his business model is. Unlike Haycroft's NPAQ, the QNMU is run by nurses and midwives for nurses, midwives and our patients. Haycroft cares only about healthy profits. The QNMU members' focus is on healthy people.

Recent misinformation in the media from the NPAQ regarding the new codes of conduct is appalling, containing gross misrepresentation and lies around cultural safety and white privilege. Haycroft has been quoted as saying that the new codes are an insidious form of racism and that we will end up with a form of apartheid in our health system. This claim is completely false. Cultural safety means providing care that takes into account Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people's needs. This is vital for the health care of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. It is vital for the health of all people. Like all nurses and midwives, my practice takes into account the cultural needs of people whether they be based on people's ethnicity, gender, age, sexuality, political views, religious views or other factors. It is what we do. We assess the person in front of us and we deliver care that is appropriate to that person.

Haycroft would not know anything about that because he has never been a nurse or a midwife. In my career I have changed my practices for children, elderly Catholic women, Chinese families, young athletes and the list goes on. Haycroft has said that the codes require nurses and midwives to acknowledge or announce their white privilege before treating patients. This is false and inflammatory, serving to sensationalise issues about race and racism. It is the worst dog-whistle device of politics.

The QNMU has always fought for health care for all and the rights of nurses and midwives. The same cannot be said of Mr Haycroft's mouthpiece, the NPAQ. We nurses and midwives are natural collective beings and we know that by working together much more can be achieved for nurses, for midwives and, most importantly, for the patients that we care for and for the health of the entire community.