




Speech By
Deb Frecklington

MEMBER FOR NANANGO

Record of Proceedings, 30 April 2019

HEALTH LEGISLATION (SCOPE OF PRACTICE) AMENDMENT REGULATION

Disallowance of Statutory Instrument

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (6.31 pm): I rise to support the motion moved by the shadow health minister in the chamber today. Nothing sums up the Palaszczuk government quite like its decision to rename the Lady Cilento Children's Hospital. That decision was spiteful, that decision was arrogant and, as we have heard in this chamber tonight, that decision was politically motivated. We just heard from the member for Nudgee who said that this is about Queensland children and families. A good government would look after Queensland's children and families. It would ensure that its health system is running like clockwork. However, what does the Palaszczuk government spend its time on? What are the priorities of the Palaszczuk government? In the health system, its priority has been to take away the name 'Lady Cilento Children's Hospital'. That shows how out of touch the Palaszczuk Labor government is.

This government tried to tell the people of Queensland that they would be open, accountable and transparent. However, the decision shows us that the Palaszczuk government is anything but open, it is anything but transparent and it is anything but accountable to the people of Queensland. As we have heard in the chamber tonight, it was a politically motivated decision. We very clearly heard that from the Treasurer of the state. We very clearly heard that the local member for South Brisbane, where the Lady Cilento Children's Hospital is located, was the only person who wanted the name changed. That raises the question: if it was so important, why was the name not changed under the previous health minister, the member for Woodridge? Maybe he is in the wrong faction.

We know that any justification that those opposite have tried to give tonight is fabricated and an absolute joke. We know that the online poll was completely fabricated. It was completely rigged.

An opposition member: It's fact.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I take that interjection. We know that public opinion never matters when it comes to the Palaszczuk government's decisions and neither do patients. We know that the government's priorities are all wrong.

The legacy of Lady Cilento should be celebrated, not trashed. Lady Phyllis Cilento was a pioneer in women's health. She was a pioneer in children's health. She broke new ground in maternity care, contraception and nutrition. In 1980 Lady Cilento was granted life membership of the AMA. In 1981 Lady Phyllis Cilento was named Queenslander of the Year. Lady Cilento was admired and respected by everyone, except for those on the Palaszczuk government benches. As we travel the state talking about this arrogant, spiteful decision, that is what upsets people so much. We speak with people who remember being treated by Lady Cilento. We speak with people whose babies were saved by Lady Phyllis Cilento. We speak with people whose children were saved by that pioneering medical woman. And the Palaszczuk government decides to take the name of Lady Phyllis Cilento off the Children's Hospital.

Those opposite, such as the member for Thuringowa and the member for Nudgee, stand in this place, reading the tea leaves and saying, 'Oh, the LNP changed the name.' The hospital was named 'Lady Cilento Children's Hospital'. That is exactly what it was.

Lady Cilento's name has been dragged through the mud by the Palaszczuk government and Minister Miles. The renaming of our public children's hospital has left the Cilento family heartbroken. Lady Cilento's son, Dr David Cilento, said that he was devastated by the decision. The health minister should put himself in the shoes of the family. Can he imagine how hurtful it has been to see their mother's name so disrespected?

Ms Grace interjected.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I hear the Minister for Education rabbiting on, again disrespecting that amazing pioneer who did so much for children's health, maternity services and nutrition in this state. As we have already heard, it was Lady Cilento's granddaughter who stated that the only time buildings are renamed is when someone is a criminal.

Government members interjected.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I take the interjections from those opposite. Lady Phyllis Cilento was not a criminal. She was a pioneer in health. Where is the sisterhood now? Where is the sisterhood standing up for Lady Phyllis Cilento? They are nowhere to be seen! All we see is the Minister for Education laughing about trashing Lady Phyllis Cilento's good name.

Ms GRACE: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Enough is enough. I know the Leader of the Opposition is struggling. My point of order is that what she is suggesting that I am doing or saying—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for McConnel, what is your point of order?

Ms GRACE: I am expressing my point of order—is completely untrue. I take offence and I ask that she withdraw.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: If you take offence that is all you need to do. Member for Nanango, the member for McConnel finds what you have said personally offensive. I ask you to withdraw.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I withdraw. We have heard all of the Palaszczuk government's claims about why the Children's Hospital had to have the name 'Lady Cilento' removed from it. They claimed it would put off potential donors. We know that claim is garbage, because we have heard about the St Bakers. Professor Peter Doherty, a Nobel Prize winner, has disputed the claims that the name change will win more research grants for the hospital.

We know that that is rubbish. We know that the Palaszczuk government's public arguments before they came into the House tonight—before we heard the member for South Brisbane admit that it was a political decision. It was obvious that the member for South Brisbane wanted this name change, because it was obvious that the previous health minister did not want the name change. I cannot wait to hear the previous health minister explain the reasons in this House, if this was so pressing, why his priority was not to change the name. I do note that the health system was working slightly better under the previous health minister in that we did not have the crisis every day that we have under the current health minister.

Nothing shows the arrogance of the Palaszczuk government more than the rigged online poll where almost 18,000 votes favoured the change. How many IP addresses did it come from? There were 74. Of those, more than 6,000 came from where? Not 10,000, not 6,000 IP addresses; but just four IP addresses. I wonder where they were in 1 William Street? I wonder which officer had to sit there using taxpayers' money pressing the button for the health minister. Which person wasted their time in the health minister's office pressing the button?

We know that nothing shows the arrogance of the Palaszczuk Labor government more than ripping the Lady Cilento name off the Queensland Children's Hospital. We know that this arrogant health minister was so disrespectful of the Cilento family that it was embarrassing. The minister did not meet with or notify them. The minister just took the call, probably from the Treasurer's office, and said, 'Keep pressing the button, because we are going to change the name and you will do what I say.' There was no respect for the family, no respect for the patients across Queensland and no respect for the doctors and the nurses who did not want this hospital name changed. It was a politically motivated decision by the Palaszczuk government to change this name. In this House tonight we should support the legacy of Lady Phyllis Cilento.