




Speech By
Joan Pease

MEMBER FOR LYTTON

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HEALTH AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (3.31 pm): It is always delightful to follow the member for Burleigh; perhaps he is due for another holiday! I rise today to speak in support of the Health and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018. I begin by thanking my colleagues on the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee for the work undertaken in consideration of this bill. I thank the committee secretariat for their assistance. I also thank the departments that provided briefings on the bill and all those who made submissions to the inquiry.

The Health and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 follows the Palaszczuk government's agenda to make Queensland a healthier state as part of *Our Future State: Advancing Queensland's Priorities*. As members know, I am always happy to stand up in this place to talk about health, because I know how important health and access to good quality health services are to baysiders. I will always stand up for baysiders—unlike those opposite, who during their brief time in government wreaked havoc on Queensland and the bayside, including our precious health services. Let me remind everyone of the cruel closure of the Moreton Bay nursing care unit in my electorate. Some 85 residents lost their homes with the simple stroke of a pen by those who sat at the CBRC table, including the current Leader of the Opposition, the member for Nanango. The federal budget sees a reduction in health funding—and let us not forget the money owed to health by the federal government—yet those opposite continue to be silent on this disgraceful disregard of Queenslanders and we baysiders.

The Health and Other Legislation Amendment Bill repeals the Public Health (Medical Cannabis) Act 2016 and amends the Health Act 1937 to make the regulatory framework for prescribing medicinal cannabis in Queensland far more streamlined. These changes mean that medicinal cannabis will be regulated under the Health (Drugs and Poisons) Regulation and will be treated the same as other schedule 8 or schedule 4 medicines, depending upon its composition. The bill also includes an amendment to the Radiation Safety Act 1999 to prohibit a person from using a radiation source or transporting a radioactive substance unless they hold a use licence or a transport licence respectively. As well, there are amendments to the 2005 Public Health Act that enables the chief executive to require a person responsible for causing a pollution event to publish a pollution notice to inform the public of potential public health risks. Furthermore, amendments to the Transplantation and Anatomy Act 1979 clarify the provisions about research involving removing tissue, and other amendments ensure pathology laboratories can access tissue based products that are necessary for diagnostic and quality control purposes.

Other acts amended include the Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act 2003, the Coroners Act 2003 and the Cremations Act 2003. These amendments permit human body parts used at a school of anatomy for the study and practice of anatomy to be cremated without a corresponding death certificate or the approval of an independent doctor. On top of this, the bill removes the requirement that a post-mortem examination of a body conducted in a hospital only be held in a hospital mortuary. These revisions to the act allow a more streamlined approach for the research and application of pathology studies and practices by removing some of the onerous and time-consuming tasks previously required when dealing with the pathology studies of human body parts.

The bill also amends the Retirement Villages Act 1999 and makes associated amendments to the Duties Act 2001. These changes ensure additional consumer protection measures, clarifying the timely payment of exit entitlements at retirement villages. The Queensland Law Society submission No. 19 outlined that these amendments set out in the Health and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 put these requirements beyond any doubt.

These are sensible amendments which ensure that Queensland's health legislation keeps up with developments in clinical practice and is responsive to emerging issues. Delivering fabulous health outcomes is something that this side of the House does well—unlike those opposite, who cut 925 health staff from Metro South HHS, closed the Moreton Bay nursing care unit, reduced health services and removed 24-hour primary care. The current leader of the opposition not only allowed this to happen but also supported these choices. Again the LNP opposition has let down baysiders, with the federal government cutting \$52.7 million from the Metro South HHS.

An opposition member: How is this relevant?

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms McMillan): Order! Member for Burleigh, if you have a point of order, rise to your feet.

Mr HART: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. This is not relevant to the bill.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Thank you, member for Burleigh. Under standing order 118, member, please ensure that you return to the long title of the bill.

Ms PEASE: The Palaszczuk government knows how important health services are to baysiders and has delivered outstanding community health services, including the delivery of the Health and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018. We have also delivered great community health services—Gundu Pa, a brand-new ambulance station, exceptional palliative care services and important health clinics, including BreastScreen Queensland, that are available to all baysiders. I give a big shout-out to the Metro South HHS staff. Thank you for your commitment to baysiders. I call on the LNP opposition to stand up for baysiders, to stand up for Queenslanders and to ensure that we get what we deserve from the federal government. I commend the bill to the House.