




Speech By  
**Michael Crandon**

**MEMBER FOR COOMERA**

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### HEALTH AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

 **Mr CRANDON** (Coomera—LNP) (4.30 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the debate on the Health and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018. The LNP does not oppose the bill, but we oppose part 9 of the bill in relation to changes to the Retirement Villages Act for reasons outlined in the statement of reservation in the committee report and by the member for Burleigh earlier today. I support the motion moved by the member for Kawana. As outlined in the explanatory notes, the objectives of the bill are to—

- repeal the *Public Health (Medicinal Cannabis) Act 2016* (Medicinal Cannabis Act), and make consequential amendments to the *Health Act 1937*, to significantly streamline the regulatory framework for prescribing medicinal cannabis in Queensland;
- amend the Public Health Act 2005 to:
  - establish the Notifiable Dust Lung Disease register and require prescribed medical practitioners to notify the chief executive of Queensland Health about cases of notifiable dust lung disease;
  - enable the chief executive to require a person responsible for causing a pollution event to publish a pollution notice to inform the public of potential risks to public health ...

In that regard, there is a recycling facility in the state seat of Coomera run by a company called BMI. Following a fire that occurred in November last year, it is only now that the issue of pollution and a potential public health risk appears to have resolved. It has been dogging the people who live in the area for all of these months up until just the other day. The final decision on whether the issue has been totally resolved is still out, but we are keeping the company on point as far as making sure that it is resolved. The explanatory notes continue—

- enable the standard that a person must comply with when manufacturing, selling, supplying or using paint to be prescribed by regulation rather than in the Act;
- amend the *Radiation Safety Act 1999* to provide that certain persons are deemed to have a use or transport licence;
- amend the *Transplantation and Anatomy Act 1979* to:
  - clarify the provisions about research that involve removing tissue from adults and children;
  - ensure pathology laboratories can access tissue-based products that are necessary for diagnostic and quality control purposes;
  - remove the requirement that a post-mortem examination of a body conducted in a hospital only be held in the hospital mortuary;
- amend the *Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act 2003*, the *Coroners Act 2003* and the *Cremations Act 2003* to enable human body parts used at a school of anatomy for the study and practice of anatomy to be lawfully cremated without a corresponding death certificate or the approval of an independent doctor ...

Finally, in the area that we on this side disagree with, the explanatory notes continue—

- amend the *Retirement Villages Act 1999* to clarify a recent amendment in relation to timely payment of exit entitlements at retirement villages and make associated amendments to the *Duties Act 2001*.

With all of the other bills that are being amended in this omnibus bill, you would have to wonder how that one managed to sneak in.

The LNP supports the health benefits of medicinal cannabis that is overseen by medical practitioners to help patients where there is evidence that it will help treat certain conditions and when conventional methods of treatment have failed. Queensland Health provides that the scientific evidence base is limited but suggests that medicinal cannabis may be suitable to treat: severe muscular spasms and other symptoms of multiple sclerosis; chemotherapy induced nausea and vomiting; some types of epilepsy with severe seizures; and palliative care, including loss of appetite, nausea, vomiting and pain. The bill reduces duplication by repealing the state legislation, making the system easier and cheaper to administer.

If the bill is passed in its present form it will amend the Retirement Villages Act 1999 to require retirement village operators in Queensland to buy back a freehold unit from a resident if the unit has not sold within 18 months of the date they leave the retirement village. As has been outlined by the member for Burleigh, this is problematic. The bill does not distinguish between traditional corporate operators and those that are formed exclusively of residents. That is where one of the big issues is. It should be noted that there is currently no statutory requirement in any jurisdiction for the operator to buy back a unit from a resident under strata freehold tenure at any time.

Queenslanders deserve a world-class health system, but the Palaszczuk Labor government is simply not delivering. Unfortunately, Anastacia Palaszczuk and Labor are not delivering, and our public health system is lurching back to the dark old days under Anna Bligh. That was when the former premier wanted to abolish Queensland Health because the department was too big. Bligh labelled it a 'basket case' at the time. The LNP changed all that by creating, among other very positive changes, 16 local hospital and health boards to empower local communities.

Queenslanders deserve a world-class health system no matter where they live. Anastacia Palaszczuk, the Premier, is not supporting rural and regional health care in any way, shape or form. We have seen that with maternity bypass at Chinchilla for almost a year. It reopened in late 2018, only to go back on bypass again in January this year. We have also had no answers with regard to Theodore maternity services. At the last state election Labor did not promise a single additional hospital bed outside South-East Queensland, and by all accounts they have not provided any additional beds inside South-East Queensland either.