




Speech By  
**Hon. Dr Steven Miles**  
**MEMBER FOR MURRUMBA**

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Record of Proceedings, 30 April 2019

## HEALTH LEGISLATION (SCOPE OF PRACTICE) AMENDMENT REGULATION

### Disallowance of Statutory Instrument

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (6.42 pm): I do not expect those opposite to listen to our doctors tonight; they did not when they were in government, they refuse to now. They ignored our doctors when they changed the name of the hospital to Lady Cilento with no consultation in the first place. They ignored their pleas to return it to its intended name. They are ignoring our doctors now. They can keep harping on about the name of the hospital like they have for almost 12 months now. They might think that is a good distraction, a good cover for the fact they have no health policies. They have had two elections with no commitments to expand the health system, no commitments to build new hospitals or to increase bed numbers.

**Ms Grace:** They didn't support the Children's Hospital.

**Dr MILES:** We can see why they keep coming back to this and I take the member for McConnel's interjection—it is why they did not support building a consolidated children's hospital in the first place.

For the benefit of the House, let me recap what led to the government deciding to return the name of the Queensland Children's Hospital to the Queensland Children's Hospital as it always should have been, a decision taken by the government more than six months ago. The Children's Health Queensland Medical Staff Association came to meet me in July last year to request a change of name back to the Queensland Children's Hospital. The hospital's medical staff association had been campaigning to reverse the name change ever since the former Newman government suddenly renamed the facility the Lady Cilento Children's Hospital in late 2013, even though all plans and signage until that point read 'Queensland Children's Hospital.' Some of them even showed me their original Queensland Children's Hospital uniforms that they kept. They pointed to a letter from the Paediatric Society of Queensland in support of a name change. On 26 July 2018, the Children's Health Queensland Medical Staff Association presented me with a petition with almost 900 staff signatures calling for the facility's name to be changed back to the Queensland Children's Hospital.

The government consulted the hospital board and the Children's Hospital Foundation, with both writing to the government on 27 July. Also in July, Queensland Health commissioned research into the hospital's recognition with the findings supporting claims by doctors that the name confused patients. On 31 August 2018, the directors of paediatrics at Cairns, Bundaberg, Townsville, Hervey Bay, Toowoomba, Prince Charles, Logan, Sunshine Coast University, Gold Coast University hospitals, Redcliffe, Ipswich and the Children's Hospital all wrote in support of a name change. Many people also wrote in with feedback about the name change. Queensland Health held formal briefings for MPs. Subsequently, cabinet met and made a decision.

The return to the original name has rightly recognised the amazing things that happen at the Queensland Children's Hospital. Our state's dedicated hospital and health service for Queensland children now has what it needs to keep delivering its world-class services. Starting with a record budget

for the service in 2018-19, \$757 million was invested in the Children's Health Queensland Hospital and Health Service, a \$37 million increase on the previous financial year. This allows it to keep up with the incredible increase in demand. In 2018, Queensland Children's Hospital emergency clinicians treated more than 70,000 children and young people with nearly 500 of them requiring immediate, life-saving care. QCH surgeons performed 5,698 emergency surgeries, an increase of nearly four per cent, and nearly 14,000 elective surgeries. In addition to the record budget, we are also delivering a brand-new ward to help Queensland kids battling cancer.

**Mr HART:** Point of order Mr Deputy Speaker, on relevance. You have pulled up a number of people on that tonight.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Stewart): Minister for Health, I ask you to come back to the motion being debated.

**Dr MILES:** The member for Mudgeeraba made repeated negative claims about our health services to children and I think I should be able to respond to them.

**An honourable member** interjected.

**Dr MILES:** You spent your entire speech criticising our health services.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! Minister for Health, you will direct your comments through the chair.

**Dr MILES:** Thanks to this huge investment, the hospital will gain an extra 30 beds, including boosting the specialist oncology service capacity by 25 per cent. It is a testament to our—

**Mr HART:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. You just gave the minister a direction; he has completely ignored it.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** What is your point of order?

**Mr HART:** On relevance.

**Mr POWER:** I rise to a point of order, Mr Deputy Speaker. He is being directly relevant.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! One moment, Minister. Member for Logan, can you resume your seat? Members, we will not debate this across the chamber. Minister, I ask you to be relevant and to come back to the motion.

**Dr MILES:** I will, Mr Deputy Speaker. In a debate about the name of the Queensland Children's Hospital, I think it is appropriate that I speak about the work of that hospital. I believe that is relevant to this debate.

The expansion to the oncology service will make the Queensland Children's Hospital the largest specialist paediatric hospital in the country. It will make the QCH even more appealing for specialist medical staff from around the world to come here and work in Brisbane at the hospital named the Queensland Children's Hospital.

**Mr MILLAR:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. This is about relevance to the name change of the hospital. He should come back to the motion.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Stewart): Thank you, member for Gregory. I have actually been listening very intently. I find that the minister is being relevant to the motion being debated.

**Dr MILES:** The Queensland Children's Hospital continues to go from strength to strength. The Children's Hospital Foundation is on track this year to meet its fundraising targets, with a record Children's Hospital telethon raising over \$12 million and a number of new corporate partners this year adding to that record tally. The foundation will make a record investment this year into the hospital named the Queensland Children's Hospital—

**Mr HART:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Members, several points were made on both sides of the House with regard to philanthropic donations and the ability to raise money by the name change. I believe that the minister is addressing those concerns in his reply. Therefore, there is no point of order.

**Dr MILES:** The strength of their fundraising also means that this year will see them make a record investment into paediatric research, exceeding \$10 million for the first time, with a focus on translational research into clinical practice. The foundation has also established Australia's first Centre for Child and Adolescent Brain Cancer Research, led by a Queensland Children's Hospital clinician, supported by the brightest researchers across UQ, QUT and QMIR in a collaboration to improve the survival rates and quality of life of those children who do survive this terrible disease. As a sign of the QCH's leadership in this area, the QCH is the largest clinical site for paediatric brain cancer trials for St Jude's hospital outside the US.

**Mr HART:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance once again. This has nothing to do with the motion.

**Mr POWER:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The continual false points of order when it is strictly relevant to the entire debate are actually disruptive.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! Thank you, member for Logan. Take your seat. I have not made a ruling yet. Minister, I believe you are now starting to stray from the motion. I ask you to bring it back to the motion being debated around the name change.

**Dr MILES:** It does not surprise me that those opposite do not see that the fantastic work the clinicians do at that hospital is incredibly relevant to a discussion about its name and to a discussion about whether we should listen to them. That goes to the heart of this whole debate.

**Mr HART:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. You have just given the minister a direction and he has ignored you.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** There is no point of order.

**Dr MILES:** I acknowledge that those opposite do not want to hear more about the fantastic work of the Queensland Children's Hospital. While I would love to continue to outline to them the amazing work done by the doctors whom we listened to when they asked us to change the name to the Queensland Children's Hospital, let me conclude with this: I know that the parents of the children who have been cared for at that hospital are grateful to the staff who helped their kids when they needed it most. I think they would want the government to do whatever those doctors say is best for the hospital and for their patients. On this side of the House, that is precisely what we have done by listening to the doctors and returning the name of the hospital to the Queensland Children's Hospital, as it always should have been. I urge all members of this House to vote against this disallowance motion, which would see the name of the hospital changed yet again for the political interests of those opposite.