




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR BUDERIM

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MOTION

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Integrity

 **Mr MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (5.35 pm): A former chief of the Army said the standard that you walk past is the standard that you accept. Through her failures to act, the Premier walked past behaviour that does not stack up on even the most basic understanding of what is right and wrong. The Premier says she wants to run an open and transparent government but time and again all we see from the Premier is her ignoring and condoning behaviour that simply is not up to the required standard. What Queenslanders see is a culture of arrogance, hypocrisy and secrecy that puts the interests of the Palaszczuk Labor government ahead of the people of Queensland. It is not good enough. Queenslanders deserve better.

Let us not forget that we are all here to serve Queenslanders. We are elected to serve others, not to serve ourselves. From ministers in the Palaszczuk Labor government all we have seen over the last five years is their righteous sense of self-importance and entitlement. They put their interests ahead of the interests of the community. For many of these Labor ministers, their actions show that the most important thing is the pursuit of power which they care more about than doing the right thing by Queenslanders.

Effective leaders lead by example. Leaders use their values to form a bedrock for a team and they model those values day in and day out. Leaders demonstrate high standards and they set consistent high standards both for themselves and for the team. Is it any wonder that so many ministers in the Palaszczuk Labor government have an inability to take responsibility for their actions when they look to the top and all they can see is a feeble and fumbling Premier and a manipulative, self-interested deputy premier? What example do they have to follow? They have a Premier who herself was found in contempt of the parliament last year and who seeks to shift blame or hide whenever things get uncomfortable. They have a former deputy premier who stumbled from one integrity crisis to another without sanction.

Even when she was faced with the former deputy premier's latest inexcusable conduct, the Premier still failed to act. When the going gets tough the Premier goes missing in action. That is not leadership; that is cowardice and Queenslanders deserve better. Even worse, when the Premier was finally forced to do something what did she do? She promoted a man whose incompetence and integrity failings are only rivalled by those of his predecessor, a man who sought to avoid scrutiny with his eHealth 'no health upgrades during parliament' policy and who misled Queenslanders with his dodgy poll to rename the Lady Cilento hospital.

There is an old saying that 'wise leaders generally have wise counsellors because it takes a wise person themselves to distinguish one'. If we apply that test to the Premier then we should be deeply concerned.

Mr Watts interjected.

Mr Bailey interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. The member for Toowoomba North and the member for Miller will cease their quarrelling across the chamber or I will issue a warning to both of you.

Mr MICKELBERG: We should be concerned when we reflect on the scandal which still engulfs the Premier's confidante and right-hand man, David Barbagallo. When in opposition we frequently heard the now Premier's constant calls for LNP ministers to be sacked whenever they were accused of infringing the ministerial code of conduct, yet as a Premier we have seen time and again her failure to act and her failure to enforce the same standards of conduct—standards that, it should be said, are the bare minimum that Queenslanders deserve to have upheld.

How can we expect Queenslanders to hold politicians in anything other than contempt when all they see is a cavalcade of self-interest and deceit from this government? How low does the bar have to go before the Premier will step up and set and enforce real standards of behaviour and act in the best interests of all Queenslanders? When will the Premier finally take responsibility for making decisions and act like a leader? Based on her past performance, I am not going to hold my breath.

During these difficult times, Queenslanders are crying out for leadership. They are crying out for a leader who will take responsibility and who will act decisively; a person who leads by example, not just with hollow words; a leader of strength and of conviction; a leader of integrity; but most of all they want a leader they can trust. The Premier is not that leader and she never will be. There is an odour wafting over the Palaszczuk Labor government—a scent of self-interest; a decided air of dishonesty and deceit. It is a strong wind of weakness and inaction and it is an odour that will only be expunged when this self-interested Labor government is removed by the Queenslanders they have forgotten to represent. I commend the motion to the House.