




Speech By
Hon. Yvette D'Ath

MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE

Record of Proceedings, 22 April 2020

MOTION

**Referral to Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family
Violence Prevention Committee**

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (10.51 am), by leave, without notice: I move—

1. That the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee inquire into and report to the Legislative Assembly on the Queensland government's response to COVID-19 in relation to the health response only;
2. That in undertaking the inquiry, the committee should take into account the Australian government's health response to COVID-19 and its impacts on the Queensland government's response;
3. That in conducting the inquiry the committee is to be conscious of any requests for witnesses or materials and ensure that any requests do not unreasonably divert resources from the immediate COVID-19 response; and
4. That the committee report to the Legislative Assembly by no later than three months after the conclusion of the public health emergency declared under the Public Health Act 2005 regarding COVID-19.

Before I take my seat, I will briefly talk to this. This very much mirrors the motion just passed by the House relating to the Economics and Governance Committee. The government believes it is appropriate not only that we have the Economics and Governance Committee considering the economic response in relation to COVID-19 that has been taken by the government and also by the federal government and the impact that that is having on Queensland but also that the health committee look at the health response.

As has been said in both of these motions, we ask that the committee members be very mindful of the witnesses or materials that they may be asking for in making their inquiries. In response to the debate that I have heard, I have a lot of faith in all members on these parliamentary committees. We have put a lot of responsibility in our parliamentary committees and our parliamentary committee process. I do not want to be sending a message to the people of Queensland that our parliamentary committees are meaningless bodies within this parliament. They are not. They have an important role to play. Every single one of those members has an important role to play, no matter what side of the parliament they come from. I am sure that they will take these referrals very seriously and look into the important matters that they go to and how we are responding to COVID-19. They will be very mindful of the requests, especially in the health space, in relation to those people they may want to get information from or from where material is provided because those people are working day and night at the moment to directly respond and respond immediately to the COVID-19 pandemic. I do hope that the opposition will support this motion.