




Speech By
Daniel Purdie

MEMBER FOR NINDERRY

Record of Proceedings, 16 September 2021

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENT

Queensland Border Restrictions; Coronavirus, Hotel Quarantine

 **Mr PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (2.12 pm): Six weeks ago, 52-year-old David Lesley from Maroochy River in my electorate of Ninderry raced down to New South Wales to save the life of his dying sister, who was suffering from stage 5 kidney failure, by donating one of his own kidneys. I am happy to report the operation was a success and both are now on the long road to recovery.

Unfortunately since then, David has been isolating and trying to get back home to his family including his three young children and his wife, Simone, so he can continue that road to recovery. They have applied for exemptions, like hundreds of other Queenslanders, so he can recover at home as advised by his specialist.

Royal North Shore Hospital transplantation nephrologist, Susan Wan, said in a medical certificate that it was not safe for David to quarantine in a hotel room and specifically requested David quarantine at home, supported by his wife and three children who are also prepared to quarantine.

In her letter, the specialist outlined the highly restrictive conditions of the ward he was treated in to ensure limited risk to exposure to COVID during his treatment. The certificate goes on to talk about hotel quarantine being unsafe for David as he needs the support of his family and access to mobility, fresh food and regular treatment.

David himself is fully vaccinated and recently returned a negative COVID test, yet despite the specialist medical advice he provided to Queensland Health his request has been denied not once, but twice. He made several requests as part of his quarantine on the recommendations of his doctors, including room to walk, as I outlined earlier, and healthy food, but he has been told that he needs to quarantine in a hotel.

I spoke to David just before and he has just arrived back in Queensland where he was herded onto a bus and is now being transported to Crest Apartments at Chermerside. His wife, Simone, has been left speechless by the heartless treatment of Queensland Health. She said—

It blows my mind that footballers and their wives can freely cross the border and yet an everyday hero with a medical recommendation to be exempt from hotel quarantine is forced to yet again put his life at risk without family or medical support. I wonder how the Premier or the Chief Health Officer would cope if it was them.

David also said just before that he just cannot get over the hypocrisy of the government—

They call themselves Queensland Health, but they are forcing me into an unsafe environment, not a place of recovery after major surgery. They are basically playing Russian roulette with my life.

This is just one of many desperate and sad stories of Queenslanders trying to return home. Again, on behalf of these Queenslanders and David and his family, I urge the Premier, the health minister and the CHO to show some compassion to her fellow Queenslanders and put common sense and logic ahead of politics. Thank you.