



Speech By
Hon. Grace Grace

MEMBER FOR MCCONNEL

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MATTER OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Achievements; LNP State Executive

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (2.10 pm): It takes a lot of front—more front than Myers—for someone who was in the Campbell Newman ministry to stand up here and talk about the Queensland Health system. I thought I had heard it all. It is unbelievable that someone who was around that table at that time, who invented the waiting list for the waiting list, the sacking of nurses, the reduction in the number of doctors, stands here today and attempts to lecture us on this side of the House about health. What I say to you is you can lecture all you want, but on this side of the House we deliver.

Opposition members interjected.

Ms GRACE: We deliver more nurses, more doctors.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Minister, your comments will come through the chair and you will use correct parliamentary titles. The Leader of the Opposition was heard in relative silence. I have heard nothing but rabble so far. I would like to hear the contribution of the minister.

An honourable member interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is not an opportunity for people to add to that.

Ms GRACE: We will not be lectured to on this side of the House.

Ms Bates interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Mudgeeraba, you are on a warning.

Ms GRACE: We will not be lectured to by those who were in the Campbell Newman ministry and basically destroyed health in this state. It has taken us on this side of the House to restore it to where it is. Unless those opposite are living under a rock somewhere, we are in the middle of a world health pandemic. No-one in the world has handled it better than the Queensland Palaszczuk Labor government. The people of Queensland know it.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Theodore, you are on a warning.

Ms GRACE: Look at them. They are all yelling. They cannot just sit there and take it. They have to get up and talk about rubbish and make stories up. Look at them all. They cannot stop yelling, cannot stop interjecting. Just sit there and listen! Enjoy every second of it.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Nanango and member for Buderim, you are both on a warning.

Ms GRACE: How dare a person who sat around the Campbell Newman table get up and lecture us on health in the middle of a world health pandemic, talking down our health system in this state, talking down the hardworking nurses, the hardworking doctors and the hardworking paramedics. Let me tell you, we will not be lectured to by the member for Broadwater. If that is all you have for the rest of the week, if that is all you have in the middle of a world health pandemic, I pity all of you on the backbench.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Minister, direct your comments through the chair.

Ms GRACE: You will be there for a long time, let me tell you. If that is the best that you are getting from the Leader of the Opposition then I pity every one of you.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Surfers Paradise, if you would like to take a point of order, take a point of order, otherwise I will control the chamber.

Ms GRACE: They do not like it when it is put back on them.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Minister, you will put your comments through the chair.

Ms GRACE: I will. Those opposite just do not like it. They do not like it one bit.

Mr Mander interjected.

Ms GRACE: I hear the interjection from the member for Everton. Isn't it terrific he is now on the state executive of the LNP? Good on you. When you have a look at the people who have been mentioned for the state executive, when it comes to women's issues I am about to give you a lecture, because those on the opposite side cannot do anything when it comes to women's issues.

Mr LANGBROEK: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Standing order 244 clearly says that members should only be referred to by their correct title.

Ms GRACE: I said the member for Everton!

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, Minister, while I am taking a point of order.

Mr LANGBROEK: This minister persists in using the word 'you' which our Speaker has ruled on on a number of occasions, and which you have ruled on today. The member continues to transgress.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you for your point of order. Minister, I will ask you to refrain from using the word 'you'—

Ms GRACE: I will try to not use the word 'you'.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Minister, resume your seat. Minister, I would ask you to listen to my ruling. You need to cease using the word 'you'. You need to put your comments through the chair. I do not know where that last comment was going, but it was dangerously close to reflecting on the chair, which has happened from both sides of the House on a number of occasions in this debate. I realise that passions are high, but we are here to have a civilised debate.

Ms GRACE: Sometimes when you are talking it is very difficult not to say it. There is no disrespect to the chair. Those opposite do it as well.

Mr BLEIJIE: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The minister is excusing herself for not following the standing orders, despite the fact that you have just ruled.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you for your point of order. Minister, you are seeking to debate the ruling. The ruling is that you will put your comments through the chair. It is a well-established and long-held practice of this chamber.

Ms GRACE: There was no disrespect intended. Recently we heard some names mentioned in relation to the state executive of the Liberal Party. When it comes to issues to do with women those opposite have a real problem. Of all the names being mentioned not one of them is a woman.

We hear that the member for Everton has been put on the state executive of the LNP. We are hearing that the party president will be Lawrence Springborg. The Leader of the Opposition talks about getting more women into the party, but they are knocking a woman off the executive. Other names that we hear are Rob Borbidge, Jeff Seeney, Gary Hardgrave, Santo Santoro and Ian Walker. There is not a female in sight. That is a great start for attracting women! No wonder they have a problem federally and in this state.

Those opposite are incapable of addressing the issues of women, as is seen by the federal government's recent Respect Matters program. After six years and \$8 million the program was launched without any consultation and has been horrendously criticised by experts. We will not be recommending the use of that material until we have a proper and thorough review of respectful relationships education in our schools.