




Speech By
Joseph Kelly

MEMBER FOR GREENSLOPES

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PUBLIC HEALTH AND OTHER LEGISLATION (FURTHER EXTENSION OF EXPIRING PROVISIONS) AMENDMENT BILL

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (6.25 pm): I would like to start by saying to the member for Whitsunday that I am qualified to talk to parents about vaccination. If I was going to be talking to parents about the vaccination of their children—I have certainly thought about this deeply in relation to my own children—the first thing I would be pointing out to people is that just over 12 months ago we were telling people that children had a very low chance—and no chance—of catching and spreading this disease and that teachers were safe. Well, it mutated. Now we know that the delta variant is acting in a different way. Like a lot of clinicians, I am very worried about what future variants of this disease might do, so I think it would be very prudent to be able to get my children vaccinated. I am glad that my 16-year-old has been able to get her first. Sadly, my 13-year-old cannot get a vaccination yet. I have talked to many, many parents who would like—

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Bush): Pause the clock. Member for Nanango, I understand you are already on a warning. You can leave the chamber until seven o'clock.

Mr KELLY: Perhaps take the time on your journey out of the chamber, member for Nanango, to ask the constituents in your area how they feel about vaccinating their children, because I am sure they will feel the same way that those in my area feel. They will feel that they should be able to vaccinate their children and keep their children safe because we do not know where this thing is going.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. We clearly have an anti-vaxxer over there trying to—

Mr KELLY: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member has been excluded from the chamber.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I take offence, Madam Deputy Speaker.

Mr KELLY: The member has been excluded from the chamber.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Exactly. So therefore you cannot—

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Nanango, is there a point of order?

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Yes, Madam Deputy Speaker, I do have a point of order. I take offence and I ask the member to withdraw.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Greenslopes, the member for Nanango has taken offence and I ask that you withdraw.

Mr KELLY: I withdraw, but I seek your guidance, Madam Deputy Speaker, as to how a member who has been asked to withdraw from this chamber can continue to engage in the debate.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will take some advice, thank you, member for Nanango. Member for Greenslopes, there is no point of order. The member for Nanango was in the process of leaving the chamber. The member for Greenslopes made a comment that she has taken offence to and she has requested that that be withdrawn.

Mr KELLY: Madam Deputy Speaker, I have taken personal offence at being called an anti-vaxxer and I would ask that that be withdrawn.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Nanango, the member for Greenslopes has taken offence. I ask that you withdraw the comment.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I withdraw. Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Nanango, is there a point of order? I hope that you are not about to reflect on the chair.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: No. I withdraw, and now I rise to a point of order. I still take personal offence and I ask the member to withdraw. He has not withdrawn.

Mr KELLY: I withdraw.

Whereupon the honourable member for Nanango withdrew from the chamber at 6.29 pm.

Mr WEIR: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. My point of order is about respect for the Speaker. You were on your feet before. The member kept on speaking and then questioned your ruling.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is no point of order. Take a seat.

Mr KELLY: We thought we would be out of this by now. This bill is all about keeping Queenslanders safe. We are not out of this and it is really important we reflect on why we are not. Why do New South Wales, the ACT and Victoria remain in lockdown with no definite chance of lifting? We have to reflect on why that is the case.

First, as I have already pointed out tonight, the virus has mutated and become much more virulent. Second, the virus leaked out of hotel quarantine—hotel quarantine that should have been fixed a long time ago by the Morrison government. Third, it leaked into a population with low vaccination rates. Vaccination rates were low because the federal government delayed starting vaccinations for four months and then they failed to secure enough vaccines for the population.

Fourth, it leaked into a state whose leaders spent 18 months telling people that lockdowns do not work. The New South Wales Premier repeatedly told the people of New South Wales that contact tracing was enough, and the Morrison government backed this in as the gold standard. On 24 June, when other states would have gone into a hard, fast lockdown, the New South Wales Premier said she was comfortable with the current settings. Again, Scott Morrison backed her in.

Fifth, when the New South Wales government finally introduced lockdowns, they limped and lagged their way to putting in proper lockdowns. In a move fitting of an Olympic diver or gymnast, the Prime Minister backflipped and short, sharp lockdowns are now the way forward apparently. Gold standard, no doubt! There can be no doubt that the current outbreak lies squarely on the shoulders of the incompetence, inaction and arrogance of Scott Morrison and Gladys Berejiklian.

I support this bill because it gives us the capacity to take a different approach that amazingly has allowed our state to beat the delta variant. One would think everyone in this chamber would be in furious agreement, proud of being in a state that has achieved something that very few countries have achieved around the world. However, when you read the statement of reservation, you realise that Crackers Kelly, the leader of the united nutjob party, might have left the LNP but his spirit is alive and well on that side of this House.

Those opposite wrote that they do not like ad hoc lockdowns. Perhaps they would prefer a good non ad hoc lockdown, like the poor people of New South Wales are having to endure right now. They went on to say that we need to develop a strategy that 'identifies risk exposure and quantifies the measures necessary to address different levels of risk'. Forgive me if I am mistaken, but I thought this bill actually laid out the measures that did just that. What part of the risk exposure don't they understand? Which bit of health advice do they need? Have they missed the number of people dying? Do they lack the capacity to sit down with a calculator and use the numbers provided freely by John Hopkins University to work out the rate of death? Do they have so little understanding of health care that they do not understand the number of people who have died of other preventable causes simply because their health system was overwhelmed? Do they have zero understanding of the tens of thousands of healthcare workers who have died around the world as a result of caring for people with COVID-19? Which bit of the risk don't they get?

Perhaps they want an alternative approach. Perhaps they support the approach taken by the New South Wales Premier. That has worked well! Perhaps they just want to let Scott Morrison have a go because he has done so well when it comes to vaccination and quarantine! Perhaps they think we should listen to whatever nonsense Crackers Kelly, the member for Manila, the pretend Cowboy Canavan and all these other crazies are expounding. How about this for a strategy? We listen and apply the advice of health professionals.

Let me turn to another section of the statement of reservation. They have attempted to reinterpret the advice of the Chief Health Officer and they have completely missed the mark.

Ms Bates interjected.

Mr KELLY: Listen to this, member for Mudgeeraba. Read the advice from ATAGI. The CHO has provided advice directly from ATAGI. I call on those opposite to withdraw their slanderous statements about the CHO in their statement of reservation.

Finally, it says in the statement of reservation that apparently politics has no place in a pandemic. I agree. Then why did the former leader of the LNP ignore the advice of health professionals and call for the border to be opened 64 times? Why have the current LNP members of this committee half-quoted the CHO and attempted to besmirch her good reputation? Why do those opposite and their associates—Craig ‘Crackers’ Kelly, Manila’s favourite adoptive son and Cowboy Canavan—continue to cast doubt on the seriousness of this illness? The Premier and the CHO have done a magnificent job. Queenslanders have done a magnificent job. This bill gives us the capacity to continue to do a magnificent job. It gives up the capacity to keep Queenslanders safe. I commend it to the House.