



Speech By  
**Aaron Harper**


**MEMBER FOR THURINGOWA**

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Record of Proceedings, 27 October 2022

**PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENT**

**Comments by Member for Mudgeeraba**

 **Mr HARPER** (Thuringowa—ALP) (2.52 pm): I have heard some things said in this House over the last eight years, but nothing like the disgraceful, insulting commentary the entire backbench heard this morning from the member for Mudgeeraba in saying that regional health workers were duds, that we employ duds in regional Queensland. The member for Mudgeeraba's position is untenable. I demand that every single LNP member ask her to come into this House and unreservedly apologise to every single hardworking, dedicated, regional healthcare worker in this state who protected us during COVID and who deliver dedicated professional health care right throughout regional Queensland. I know about it, having done it for over 30 years in regional Queensland.

The member for Mudgeeraba's position is untenable. Where is the Leader of the Opposition? He needs to call for her to stand down, to come in here and apologise or to sack her. Take her out of the front bench. It is disgraceful. It is a slight, a slur, on every single hardworking health professional in this state. In 30 years of working in the regions, I never heard anything quite like it. It is indefensible. There is not one member opposite who can defend what the member for Mudgeeraba said in this House this morning. If I were a healthcare worker listening to that commentary in the Queensland parliament this morning, I would be disgusted.

**Mr Hart** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Member for Burleigh, return to your seat. Pause the clock. If the member for Burleigh wants to participate in the debate, he will need to be in his own seat.

**Mr HARPER:** It is unbecoming of a member of parliament to use that language in this House. The member for Mudgeeraba no longer has the integrity to hold the position of shadow minister for health on the opposition benches. Every single member opposite needs to demand that the Leader of the Opposition sack the member for Mudgeeraba from her position. It is over. The member for Mudgeeraba consistently talks down health workers in this state, consistently abuses the healthcare workers of this state. This morning was the absolute straw that breaks the camel's back. No more, member for Mudgeeraba. We demand that you come in here and unreservedly apologise to every single health worker—from the Torres Strait, the southern borders and out west. We all are disgraced at the language. You should be ashamed.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Comments will come through the chair.

**Mr HARPER:** All LNP members need to be hanging their heads in shame. They cannot stand behind the member for Mudgeeraba any longer. Her job in this House is finished.