




Speech By
Brittany Lauga

MEMBER FOR KEPPEL

Record of Proceedings, 27 October 2022

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENT

Comments by Member for Mudgeeraba; CQ Health, Staff Recognition Awards

 **Ms LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (2.46 pm): Mr Deputy Speaker, I echo your congratulations to all of the recipients of the Buy Smart awards and, in particular, the recipients of the Commissioner's Award, which I was pleased to accept on behalf of the students and staff of Wadja Wadja High School in Woorabinda.

I think that everyone on this side of the chamber and, hopefully, those opposite were completely dismayed at the comments made by the member for Mudgeeraba, the shadow opposition health spokesperson, when she said what she really thinks about regional healthcare workers this morning in this place. She said that regional healthcare workers are duds. I am absolutely shocked and dismayed that the member has not taken the first opportunity to apologise in this place for her comments this morning. Our regional healthcare workers are tireless and passionate healthcare workers and they are leaders in their fields. I take this opportunity to stand in this place and praise our regional healthcare workers, in particular our regional healthcare workers from the Central Queensland Hospital and Health Service, because last week I attended—

Mrs Frecklington: We've been doing that for years.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Ms LAUGA: I am sure that the regional healthcare workers in Nanango would be incredibly disappointed with the comments made by the member for Mudgeeraba this morning. If I were a member of the opposition from a regional area, I would be picking up the phone or tapping the member on the shoulder and saying, 'Please take it upon yourself'—

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Nanango, you are warned under the standing orders.

Ms LAUGA: We will remember the comments made this morning and we will make sure that we keep count of the number of days that the member for Mudgeeraba refuses to apologise for those comments because it is absolutely disgraceful.

Last week I attended the CQ Health awards for excellence. The wonderful care provided by our Central Queensland health staff was showcased at the fifth annual CQ Health Staff Recognition Awards. Our CQ healthcare heroes—which is what they are; they are heroes, not duds—have been working tirelessly throughout the pandemic and continue their important work to help keep our community healthy and safe. I was very pleased to attend and present the CQ Health Values Awards.

A big congratulations goes to one of my favourites, Dr Gulam Khandaker. He is also a leader in his field, not a dud. He took out the Employee of the Year Award. The Community Care Unit in North Rocky was awarded Team of the Year. Special mention goes to Deborah and Wayne Broome who won the Closing the Gap Award for their dedication to supporting the Woorabinda community through the

global pandemic. Wendy Kemp, from the Capricorn Coast Hospital ED, who won the People's Choice Award, but was too busy working to be there to receive that award. That just goes to show the level of dedication of our regional healthcare workers. Thank you to the CEO of the CQHHS, Dr Emma McCahon, and the entire HHS team for the invitation. I also thank the board chair, Paul Bell, and the entire board. Congratulations to all of the award winners.