




Speech By  
**Deb Frecklington**

**MEMBER FOR NANANGO**

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Record of Proceedings, 27 October 2022

**INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (4.11 pm): I will start by commenting on the contribution of the member for Greenslopes. He said that when he was first a nurse he had three choices: to join the union, to go off by himself and start a ginger group, or he could choose not to do anything. At that stage he had a choice. After this legislation, if passed, that young nurse just starting will not have a choice.

**A government member:** It will pass!

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** I will take that interjection. I like it to be proven. The member for Greenslopes clearly said he had three options: to join a union, not join a union or to start a ginger group. It begs the question: why is the member for Greenslopes a member of parliament if his union was helping him out so much? What made him come in here to change the system?

**Mr Kelly:** The Newman government!

**Government members** interjected.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** Hence why he is the Deputy Speaker. The member for Greenslopes had that freedom of choice that every single new employee in this great state should have—unlike the nurses who are trying so hard right now to have that choice but who will have it ripped away from them. Because the Labor Party do not wish to give that choice any longer, they have brought in the most draconian, terrible piece of legislation that I have ever seen come through this House in the 10 years I have been here. It is absolutely unbelievable that every new nurse or teacher who has found a home in an alternate union is no longer able to do that.

It is interesting that the member for Greenslopes was able to make that choice when he started. The nurse's union has become so tied at the hip to the Labor Party—and that is just one of the unions—and feeds it cash from those hardworking nurses. They could save around \$400. That is a lot of money. It may not mean much to the member for Pine Rivers, but that \$400 means a lot to all of those junior graduate nurses. That is why they are leaving in droves. Thousands of people are leaving the draconian union movement because they know that the coffers of their respective union are going into the coffers of the Palaszczuk Labor government. That is the only reason why the IR minister has brought this draconian legislation into this House.

Where have we come to in this state when, if you end up before the QIRC, the only person who can represent you is a union. Seriously. This Palaszczuk government has decided it can only be a Labor aligned union. What happens if that young nurse or teacher, that person who wants to start a career, does not have the same political leanings as the Palaszczuk Labor government? They do not get represented. The alternate unions have found a home because the government is completely aligned with and absolutely run by the union movement. We know that.

There are protests every day against the government. As soon as that happens there is a little scuttlebutt and ministers might move sideways, backwards or upwards—whichever way they go—because it is the unions that put the ministers' backsides in these seats. The \$400 of that poor nurse or

teacher is going towards making sure one of these people gets elected in this parliament. How is that fair when that young person may not wish their affiliation fees to go to the Labor Party? That is exactly why these alternative unions have sprung up.

That does not get through to members of the Labor government. It is all about control. Those opposite cannot understand the economics of why there is a \$400 saving. It is because \$400 of the union dues goes straight to the Labor Party. Those opposite are so economically incompetent they do not understand that. I beg them all to do Economics 101. Do IR 101. The Labornomics that is taught and bred into this group of people is absolutely astounding.

The Deputy Premier has a doctorate in union organisation. He is a doctor in increasing membership. Imagine the cabinet meeting, with 'Dr Union' sitting beside the most powerful unionist in the cabinet in the member for McConnel. She would have been there thumping her fist, singing *Solidarity Forever* and going, 'Oh my goodness, look at this. We have to stop these people. There are 120,000 people who are paying their money to an alternate union. At \$400 each we are going to lose millions and millions of dollars'—something like \$48 million. That is exactly what the union movement will lose—sorry, that is what the Labor Party will lose—and that is why the all-powerful factions around the cabinet table were sitting there saying, 'Hang on a minute, the Labor Party is going to lose, but that means we will lose our backsides on those seats.' That is why they brought this particular piece of legislation to the House.

**Mrs Gerber:** It is anti-democratic!

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** I will take that interjection. It is anti-democratic. Those 120,000 people are joining these alternate unions for a purpose. They have a right to be represented at the QIRC. They deserve to have their voices heard.

I can tell the House that the 12 nurses who constantly come to sit in my office to complain about the failures of the health system in Nanango have been to the union. They are members of the union. They have tried. Do you know what the union said to those locals? 'We can't do anything because it is the Palaszczuk government and they're our masters.' That is why they are not being represented and that is exactly why they have gone to NPAQ. I feel so sorry for any junior nurse, junior teacher or other junior person in the workforce who wants to be affiliated so they can be represented. They deserve freedom of choice. The people on the other side have no idea.

Just before I heard the words 'accountable' and 'unions'. I cannot repeat the exact quote because I was so blown away. Accountable? Accountable to whom? It is the government that is accountable to the unions, not the other way around!

**Government members** interjected.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** As soon as those squawking backbenchers understand that then they might understand that this piece of legislation is simply undemocratic. It has no place in this great House. There is absolutely no place for this piece of legislation. I absolutely, 100 per cent, support the Deputy Leader of the LNP and every word that he said in his submission. The Labor Party would do well to play it on repeat when they lose in 2024 because this legislation will be the reason for that loss. There are people out there, including ones in the unions, who do not want this legislation.

*(Time expired)*