



Speech By  
**Joan Pease**


**MEMBER FOR LYTTON**

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Record of Proceedings, 12 May 2022

**HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

**Report, Motion to Take Note**

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (3.22 pm): I rise to speak to the Health and Environment Committee report No. 18, titled *Inquiry into the provision of primary, allied and private health care, aged care and NDIS care services and its impact on the Queensland public health system*. I have written a lovely speech, but I have to say how incredibly disappointed I am by the member for Southport's contribution today. He attended all of the same hearings I did. He listened to all of the same witnesses and their thought-provoking, difficult stories. The opposition members also made statements of reservation. I also listened to the member for Mudgeeraba, who claimed that this inquiry was a sham. I ask the members for Mudgeeraba and Southport: which reports of the over 100 witnesses who came and spoke to us were shams? Which ones will we discount, rip up and throw out? That is not okay. As far as I am concerned, it is misleading the House. It is a disgrace and they should be ashamed of their presentations. What about the nearly 80 submissions we had? Which one of those should we tear up and throw in the bin as a sham?

The statement of reservation is an absolute disgrace. The member for Southport is putting on a completely different face than he did at our committee hearings. I wonder how he would go if he stood up and gave that speech at Bundaberg or Longreach. I wonder how they would have taken that. What about the people we heard from who give so much of their time and just do not have enough because the residential aged-care facilities are not capable of taking care of their residents so they have to present at hospital emergency departments? There are 512 people in long-stay. The member for Southport had the audacity to say, 'That is what hospitals are for.' Do we not want to include them?' The evidence that was clearly given at every one of our hearings was that those residents were ready to leave the hospital. A hospital is not the place for people who are capable of living independently or living in a residential aged-care facility. They need to have a home to go to. A hospital is not a home. A hospital is a place you go to for acute care when you are very sick; it is not where you live. It is so disappointing. The member for Southport attended and listened to exactly the same evidence as I did, and he is putting a completely different spin on it.

**Mr Molhoek** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Bush): Order, member for Southport.

**Ms PEASE:** The audacity of this man! The federal government has abandoned the most important people in our community: our older generation. They built our country. They built our nation. They went to war—

**Mr Molhoek** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Southport!

**Ms PEASE:** They have worked all their lives. They have paid taxes all their lives—

**Mr Molhoek** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The member for Southport is warned under the standing orders.

**Ms PEASE:**—and the federal government rewards them by saying, ‘Oh, we don’t care about you. We’re going to pay the people who look after you the lowest amount of wages. If you’re not well enough, too bad. We’re not going to make sure there are primary care providers who visit you in your nursing home. We’re going to just put you into a hospital and we don’t care that you could live in a residential aged-care facility and go and work in a community garden or go and have some diversion therapy. Oh, no, we’ll leave you in a bed where you have no access to outside air and no access to engagement and social interaction.’ That is exactly what this man is saying, and that is exactly the opposite of what we heard at every one of our hearings. It is an absolute disgrace. I am so disgusted to hear such a shocking review of the same evidence that I heard. I do not know about you, Madam Deputy Speaker, but some of the information that I have heard here this afternoon—

**Mr Molhoek** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Member for Southport, you were warned and you have continued to interject. You can leave the chamber for an hour.

*Whereupon the honourable member for Southport withdrew from the chamber at 3.26 pm.*

**Ms PEASE:** I acknowledge all the very hardworking people who work in that sector. We heard the passion and commitment of those people who presented to us. They were so concerned about the fact that people did not have access to primary care and allied health services. People wanted to be independent but were not getting Commonwealth home care packages. We can do better. The federal government needs to look after the most valuable people in our community—people living with a disability and elderly people. It is time the government undertook to take care of people and do their job, because so far they have not. They have failed miserably.