




Speech By  
**Nikki Boyd**

**MEMBER FOR PINE RIVERS**

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Record of Proceedings, 13 October 2022

## **HEALTH PRACTITIONER REGULATION NATIONAL LAW AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Ms BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (2.37 pm): I very much look forward to the next exciting instalment from the member for Hinchinbrook during consideration in detail. I am sure there will be just as many puzzled looks in the room when that happens.

One of the greatest jobs that I have had the honour to perform is alongside health practitioners as an official of the United Workers Union in Queensland. Day after day we hear health practitioners talked down by those opposite. In fact, the only thing the LNP prefer to do more than talking down our health practitioners is sacking them. I stood beside health practitioners as those opposite, for the short time they sat on the government benches, gutted the health system and threw our frontline workers on the scrap heap. While this may be a hard truth for those opposite to confront, it is their record and while their memory may be short the memories of those workers and their families is not. Today, the wounds are just as raw as they were under the LNP Newman government and it is not forgotten or forgiven. The wound is reopened each election campaign when, without ever apologising, leader after unsuccessful leader, the LNP takes the same failed policy back to the ballot box with the same net outcome: defeat. We remember the record of those opposite in government and we will not forget.

Their record in opposition is not much improved. The Leader of the Opposition said he intends to do the same thing, only slower. What a terrifying mental image that conjures up.

**Ms BATES:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I ask you to draw the member back to the long title of the bill. She is obviously straying from it.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Martin): Member for Pine Rivers, I ask that you come back to the long title of the bill.

**Ms BOYD:** Thank you for your guidance, Mr Deputy Speaker; it is very much appreciated. Here in this place we see parliamentary question time often as a location to use our hardworking health workers as the opposition's personal punching bag. This term alone we have seen well over 100 questions during question time from the LNP running down our health workers and our health system. With a confected crisis often—

**Ms BATES:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I believe that you gave direction to the member about the long title of the bill and it appears that she has ignored your direction.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member, you may continue, but I ask you to come back to the long title of the bill.

**Ms BOYD:** In relation to natural justice, which the LNP's statement of reservation directly speaks to, I draw the House's attention to the correlation that in fact exists between the LNP's own concerns around the natural justice of health workers and the hesitation of LNP members when they come into this place and run down health workers, often with no regard to natural justice whatsoever. There is a

direct correlation in terms of the statement of reservation that the members for Southport and Bonney wrote and attached to the committee report and the performance of the LNP in this place. We have seen over 100 separate attempts to run down health workers here in this chamber in just this term of government.

**Ms BATES:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The long title of the bill clearly talks about notifications of health workers who have done the wrong thing. It is not an opportunity for the member to drag up anything that has been in question time over the past seven years.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member, I understand that you are responding to the statement of reservation; however, I would ask that you come back to the long title of the bill.

**Ms BOYD:** In relation to the concerns that the members for Southport and Bonney raised in this statement, their very actions in the place, which they perpetuate every time they come in here, run down our health workforce. Consider this my statement of reservation on those opposite for the contempt they have for hardworking frontline health workers and their families.

On this side of the House we are not interested in talking down our communities, our health workers or our health facilities. Do members know why? It is because we are too busy building them up—investing in our frontline workers, upgrading and extending hospitals, building satellite hospitals so that people can get care closer to home and, of course, working with our health practitioners so they are best resourced to do their essential job and provide such a critical service to all Queenslanders. Our government continues to invest in public safety services with confidence, effectiveness and efficiency. I commend the work of our dedicated health practitioners and this bill to the House.