




Speech By
Hon. Yvette D'Ath

MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE

Record of Proceedings, 22 February 2022

MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Integrity in Government

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (2.42 pm): I thought I had heard it all, but listening to the Manager of Opposition Business, the member for Kawana and a former attorney-general saying now the Premier should intervene to stop someone accessing their right to the Supreme Court or somehow direct them into releasing something is quite extraordinary. It is really not surprising from the opposition.

The Leader of the Opposition stood here today and talked about trust. He continually used the word 'trust'. Where was that trust in 2012? Where was that trust when the people of Queensland were being told, 'You can trust a Newman government; you have nothing to fear.' Where was that trust? The member for Buderim talks about protecting health workers when they need it. Where was that protection for them when their jobs were being slashed and their funding was being cut. Where was that trust when the Barrett Adolescent Centre was closed down? Where was the trust for the people of Redcliffe when Scott Driscoll did what he did to our community association and our community? Many on the other side stood in this chamber and defended him time and time again. Today is the eighth anniversary of the Redcliffe by-election. I am reminded every day why I am the member for Redcliffe and the devastation of what the LNP's member did to that community. I find it amusing going back to read the words—

I say to those opposite who continually, in this House and more so in the media, make wild accusations against people that if they have records of evidence, then refer it to the appropriate authorities.

What good advice! That was the former attorney-general Jarrod Bleijie in relation to accusations about the Queensland Retail Traders and Shopkeepers Association and the use of resources and staff by former member for Redcliffe Scott Driscoll. Where was the trust then? 'MP linked to funds scandal'. They defended him all the way through. 'Triple Life—LNP MP used office as secret lobby base.' 'Check-out cheek'. This man went to jail for his behaviour. I did not hear any outcries from those opposite when he was doing all of this. In fact, when they were in government Campbell Newman's chief of staff called the Integrity Commissioner to undertake what was described by the Integrity Commissioner at the time as an 'ill informed abusive rant'.

The Acting Queensland Integrity Commissioner David Solomon criticised the government in a paper released in late 2013 called 'Ministerial access and the public trust.'

That is timely—trust. He said—

The LNP Queensland government had repeatedly rejected his calls to make more lobbyists publicly accountable.

They sacked 26 staff in the CMC. They sacked the parliamentary oversight committee of the then CMC in the middle of the night after committee members questioned the level of the Newman government's interference in the then CMC. They had Campbell Newman's chief media adviser call the then acting head of the CMC to arrange an op-ed in support of the LNP government and its failed VLAD laws. This is their idea of trust, integrity and accountability.

It is extraordinary that they have the nerve to come in here and make accusations, accusations that in many cases are years old, which have been referred to the authorities that the former attorney-general says you should refer allegations to and having found that no misconduct has occurred. They want to re-prosecute it because they have nothing else to offer this state. The Leader of the Opposition comes in here and talks about trust? The member for Buderim comes in here and talks about supporting health workers?

Mr Mickelberg interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Order! Member for Buderim, you have made your contribution.

Mrs D'ATH: It is astonishing.

Mr Mickelberg interjected.

Mrs D'ATH: The concerns reported in June 2021?

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Buderim, I tried repeatedly to bring you to order. You are warned under the standing orders.

Mrs D'ATH: The member for Buderim used the words 'bullying, harassment and intimidation'. That is what I heard from public servants between 2012 and 2015—absolute harassment, intimidation, fear. They were in tears because of the harassment. What about the firies who worked on the Redcliffe by-election who were threatened? I saw Campbell Newman walk up to one of them and ask for his number and what station he worked at. Talk about trust! They are absolute hypocrites.