




Speech By
Hon. Yvette D'Ath

MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE

Record of Proceedings, 27 October 2022

ADJOURNMENT

Comments by Member for Mudgeeraba; Noon, Mr D

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (8.57 pm): Can I just say how disappointed I am that the member for Mudgeeraba has not come into this chamber and apologised for her comments earlier today. In talking about doctors and health workers the member interjected and said, 'They only employ duds in regions.'

Mr Powell: Put it in context. That is not what she said.

Mrs D'ATH: The member has come in here and spoken again about doctors without apologising. I take the interjection from the member opposite. The fact is that, although the member has made statements outside of this House, she did not stand up and take personal offence at the comments at the time. The member has not come in here at any point to raise a matter of privilege and say that she was misrepresented and will be writing to the Speaker. Why? Because she said what she said. That is the fact. In fact, when I accidentally thought it was the member for Whitsunday and apologised and said that it was the member for Mudgeeraba, she actually responded and said, 'Yes, it was.' She actually acknowledged that they were her comments and not those of the member for Whitsunday. I expect her to come in tomorrow morning and apologise.

I also want to speak about the amazing Public Service and the public servants who work within it, in particular those Queenslanders who work right across Queensland, including in regional and remote Queensland, within the Department of Health. These Queenslanders, whether they are frontline or enabling staff, play their own unique role in ensuring our health system operates and supports Queenslanders no matter where they live. I have said it before: the Palaszczuk government respects our Public Service and we thank them for their work.

I would like to pay tribute to and thank Mr David Noon for his 40-year contribution to the people of Queensland in the Department of Health. He officially retires tomorrow. David commenced in the central office of the Department of Health in December 1981 in the home medical aids section. Since then he has seen the department go from strength to strength—from a budget in the late eighties of about \$1.59 billion to today over \$20 billion.

David worked in a number of corporate support areas of the department until he found his niche in the early nineties when the government introduced cabinet legislation liaison units. He worked his way up through the ranks and retires from the Public Service tomorrow as the Manager of the Cabinet and Parliamentary Services unit, a role which I am advised he relished and in which he built a strong rapport with hundreds of colleagues right across Queensland. David's time providing executive support services saw him support 20 ministers and 17 chief executive officers—a remarkable innings.

I am advised by colleagues close to David that he will be remembered as someone who liked working in a team environment, enjoying the camaraderie that came with the job, and as someone who could always share a joke to remove obvious pressures and the stress of the job while ensuring deadlines were always met. This is a great testament to a great public servant. On behalf of the Palaszczuk government, I thank David for his service and wish him a safe and happy retirement ahead.