




Speech By
Hon. Yvette D'Ath

MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE

Record of Proceedings, 30 November 2022

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Minister for Health and Ambulance Services, Media Article

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (9.50 am): I support the comments of the industrial relations minister about how great it is to see our health workers getting great outcomes from a great Labor government.

Today the ABC published a highly defamatory article authored by Rory Callinan. I am calling on ABC management to immediately retract this article, which is based solely on smear and innuendo. I believe this defamatory report reflects poorly on the author, Mr Callinan, and on ABC management for publishing it.

For over 12 months, Mr Callinan has been ambulance chasing a story about the Redcliffe vaccination hub. Without a shred of evidence, he has alleged a conflict of interest where no conflict exists. I have spoken to Mr Callinan on this matter at some length and my office has provided multiple written responses to Mr Callinan. As I said on the record to Mr Callinan in relation to the selection of the Redcliffe vaccination hub site, this is not a ministerial decision and I have not made or received any representations from the department on this matter. Unless Mr Callinan can provide any evidence of my involvement in this decision he should apologise and withdraw the story. People expect better of the national broadcaster's reporters.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Members to my left will cease their interjections. I would like to hear the statement.

Mrs D'ATH: People expect better of ABC management. As required, I declared in my register of interests that I had accepted storage space for furniture, a fact acknowledged by Mr Callinan. This story has been generated by the fact that I appropriately made a declaration on my register. Mr Callinan seeks to draw links where none exist. After more than 12 months of digging, this is the best he could come up with. It is embarrassing that the ABC let Rory Callinan run this story.