



Speech By  
**Dr Christian Rowan**


**MEMBER FOR MOGGILL**

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Record of Proceedings, 11 May 2023

## **PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS**

### **Education; Health Protocols**

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (3.06 pm): Queensland students, teachers and parents are suffering as a direct result of Labor's teacher workforce crisis. After budget estimates nearly a year ago the Labor Minister for Education tweeted, 'Here are the facts: since 2015 we have employed 6,000 new teachers as well as more than 1,500 teacher aides.' That is a figure of 7,500. However, last night the Premier stated that since 2015 the state government has appointed 7,105 new teachers and teacher aides in Queensland. This would indicate a net reduction of 395 teacher and teacher aide roles in just nine months. That would be deeply concerning and it needs urgent clarification by the Premier and Labor Minister for Education.

Information obtained this year by the Liberal National Party has also revealed the extent of the Palaszczuk state Labor government's growing safety crisis in our schools and serious and ongoing risks to the health and wellbeing of students and teachers. Last year alone there were 575 asbestos incidents in Queensland state schools that required immediate parental notification. These incidents were across 287 schools. They are very alarming figures and the government must assure Queenslanders that they have all been actioned in the appropriate way in accordance with workplace health and safety obligations.

Also in figures released to the Liberal National Party state opposition it can be revealed that the total WorkCover claims paid to Queensland teachers and staff has reached an all-time high under the Palaszczuk state government with more than \$67.2 million in claims paid during the last financial year. This represents a 94 per cent increase in total WorkCover payments made since the election of the Palaszczuk state Labor government in 2015, with total WorkCover payments made to teachers and staff who have suffered physical and psychological injury now exceeding \$347 million.

Whilst in Far North Queensland for the regional sitting of the Queensland parliament, I also wish to draw to the attention of the House the serious clinical outcome and quality of care questions that have been raised in relation to best practice and adherence to established protocols as part of the North Queensland Community Pharmacy Scope of Practice Pilot. Published information and reports evaluating relevant treatment guidelines, evidence of clinical protocol deviation and various findings contained within these reports is of significant concern.

Whilst access and availability of health professionals is of critical importance to all Queenslanders, it is incumbent on the state Labor government to have a clear and communicated plan to address these safety and quality concerns. Whilst there may be variance of views in relation to health professionals who should be undertaking different clinical services, these results and these findings require ongoing engagement with relevant stakeholders, including the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, the Pharmacy Guild of Australia, the Australian Medical Association, the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine, the Department of Health and many others to ensure that there is good quality clinical outcomes for all Queenslanders and in particular here in North Queensland.