



Speech By  
**David Janetzki**


**MEMBER FOR TOOWOOMBA SOUTH**

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**PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT**

**Palaszczuk Labor Government, Tax Policy**

 **Mr JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (2.24 pm): One of the distinguishing features of this term of the Palaszczuk government has been the chaotic formulation and implementation of tax policy. There has been the breach of the solemn promise not to introduce or increase taxes, but the consequences for households and business of the chaotic nature of the Treasurer's tax policy approach poses an even more serious risk to Queensland's living standards. The Treasurer has been a triple threat to our economy: surprise coal royalty hikes that have damaged our international reputation for being a safe place to invest; a renters tax that has damaged our national investment reputation and driven up rents in the middle of a housing crisis; and now the patients tax that will drive up emergency department presentations, drive down bulk-billing rates and make it more expensive to see the doctor in the middle of a health crisis across Queensland.

We first asked questions during question time last November about this issue. The Treasurer said that there had been no change and that he would not be acting because it would not be proper to do so. Well, look what has happened since then. We have had 78 complex clauses over 29 pages of two editions of a complex Queensland Revenue Office ruling. We have seen a backdown and a backflip from the Treasurer. We have seen admissions during estimates that the Treasurer has not worked with Queensland Health to determine the impact of the patients tax on ambulance call-out rates at a time of record ramping, bulk-billing rates or access of residential aged-care facilities to their visiting GP.

At the end of this chaos the Treasurer's plan is that medical practices must pay his patients tax or restructure their business model to factor in ongoing higher administrative costs. If practices adopt the latter approach, there remains a myriad unanswered and worrying questions. Are doctors at risk of triggering anti-avoidance provisions if they move to a direct payment model? How will grouping provisions work in practice? How do practices and doctors administer the direct payment model with concerns around bank accounts and the roles played by the administrative entity and the practice entity? These are concerns that are shared by general practices across the state, including my colleague and general practitioner Dr Rowan in the seat of Moggill. Rather than fix the problem that he created, the Treasurer has only made it more complicated and more expensive, regardless of which option general practitioners take. Doctors are healers, not bookkeepers, but the only question that ultimately mattered throughout this chaotic process is straightforward: under the Treasurer's tax, will Queenslanders end up paying more to see the doctor? The answer is in and the answer is yes.

*(Time expired)*