



Speech By
Deb Frecklington

MEMBER FOR NANANGO

Record of Proceedings, 22 February 2023

MOTION: QUEENSLAND HEALTH



Mrs FRECKLINGTON (Nanango—LNP) (5.40 pm): Mr Deputy Speaker—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Order! I rose to my feet to bring the House to order. I ask you to take your seat, member for Nanango. I do not appreciate the childish behaviour that I just heard from members on my left. I cannot identify which of you were involved. Any repeat of that behaviour and I will be warning people.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I never thought I would start my contribution to the debate on this motion by saying: health minister, goodness me but you are safe from your assistant. If that is what we have coming as we on this side and the rest of Queensland call for the health minister to resign, the assistant minister—

Mrs GILBERT: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence at the member for Nanango.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! I will hear the point of order in silence.

Mrs GILBERT: I take personal offence at the member for Nanango and her mean girl stance.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Mackay, what you did you say at the end of that point of order?

Mrs GILBERT: I said 'her mean girl stance'.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is unparliamentary. I ask you to withdraw.

Mrs GILBERT: I withdraw.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Are you maintaining your original point of order?

Mrs GILBERT: Yes, I am.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Resume your seat.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Mr Deputy Speaker, I will withdraw but I will say this—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! There will be no buts. Member for Mackay, you are an experienced member of this House. There is no cause for interjecting and using language that like when you rise on a point of order. You are warned under the standing orders.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: The people who are concerned that the member is the assistant health minister to the most incompetent health minister Queensland has ever had are the mums of Mackay and the babies who will never grow up to live a proper life. They are the ones who should be upset that the member is the assistant health minister. She came into this House to speak to this motion but for three whole minutes did not even mention her government's record. She spent her entire time rubbishing the former government, which actually fixed former health minister Anna Bligh's—

Mr Harper: You cut thousands.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: We restored maternity. That is what we did. We put maternity services back into Cooktown. We put maternity services back into Beaudesert. We planned maternity services for Weipa, but then these jokers got in and canned that idea. We planned for Kingaroy and we planned for Roma. We fixed up the health system after these jokers and then premier Anna Bligh—and a couple of the people who are now ministers were sitting around the cabinet table when she did it—stood up and said that the health system was a basket case. Embarrassingly, it is worse today than it was then.

How ridiculous it is that when we left government two per cent of patients on the long waitlist for elective surgery were not seen within clinically recommended times. Today, under this health minister, it is 22 per cent. That is an embarrassing indictment on the health minister of this state. What went on in Mackay was the worst indictment on the health system that I have ever heard about. The jokers opposite can laugh about babies losing their lives and mums never again being able to have babies. Everyone else lost their jobs but who got to keep hers? The health minister got to keep her job! That is a shame. The assistant minister for health represents Mackay. Where was that member? How was she looking after her constituents? I can tell the House that it was the member for Whitsunday who had to take all the phone calls.

Let us talk about another minister in this House. Let us talk about the member for Gladstone. Not one member who has spoken to this motion has uttered the word 'Gladstone'. Why should we be talking about Gladstone? Because Gladstone has been on bypass all this time! An expectant mum in the big electorate of Callide cannot have a baby in Callide. I was born in a hospital in Callide. Those mums deserve to have babies, just like me, in Callide. Who would ever have thought that a mum in Callide would have to go to Rocky? There is pressure on the poor health workers in Rocky because the minister refuses to listen when it comes to the bush baby crisis. I urge everyone in this House to Google the words 'bush baby crisis'. What place comes up? Not a Third World country and not another state. There are pages and pages of articles about the bush babies crisis under this health minister. We thought the bush baby crisis was bad when the Deputy Premier was health minister but, my goodness, it has gone from bad to worse. A minister of this government has said that if it is not fixed he will resign. Gladstone has been on bypass for 290 days and the minister is still here. He should hang his head in shame.

Ms Pease: You're misleading the House.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Misleading the House? I say this to the member for Lytton: a minister was so disgusted that mums in his electorate cannot give birth there that he said he was going to resign from his post. That is the fake news that we get from this government because the member for Gladstone is still sitting in his ministerial leather, still supporting the health minister who should resign and still supporting the assistant health minister who definitely does not deserve a promotion. The Premier was right when she said there is no talent in the backbench.