




Speech By
Deb Frecklington

MEMBER FOR NANANGO

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TOBACCO AND OTHER SMOKING PRODUCTS AMENDMENT BILL

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (6.54 pm): It gives me great pleasure to rise and follow the contribution of the member for Bundaberg. I will tell the member for Bundaberg what we did: we fixed the health system that was broken by the former Bligh government. Let us remember that it was premier Bligh who stood up and said that the health system is a basket case. That is why we split it into two. That is exactly what happened.

Mr HARPER: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I think the member on her feet is misleading the House with her commentary about fixing the health system.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Lui): Order, members! I will take advice. Member for Thuringowa, there is a process if someone is misleading the House. I encourage you to write to the Speaker.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: When the long dental waitlist had 67,000 people on it, we got it to zero.

Ms Boyd interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Pine Rivers, order!

Mrs McMahon interjected.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: And there is a oncer if I have ever seen one! What did we do? We did what all good governments should do, and that is look after people. We actually cut the health waitlists in half. Remember that premier Bligh said that it was a basket case. Guess where the health system is now? It is worse than it was under Anna Bligh.

Ms Boyd interjected.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Oh, wow! Oh my goodness! I take that interjection.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Pine Rivers, you are warned.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Interestingly, I know it has been a tough week for the government, but honestly. The waitlists doubled before the pandemic, but let us just pretend that that never happened. Let us pretend that the Palaszczuk government has not been in power for eight years. It is clear that this is a government that has lost its way.

In relation to the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Amendment Bill, it was very interesting—and, again, I know that the member for Pumicestone did not understand what the role of opposition was yesterday—to hear the contribution of the member for Bundaberg, a former teacher supposedly who surely to goodness goes into schools and explains to children what goes on in parliament. He is upset that there is not a statement of reservation. I am very proud to stand in front of my school students like I did today with Kingaroy State High and talk about what goes on in this place. Quite often the majority of the time this House agrees with each other and that, member for Bundaberg, is exactly what is happening with this bill, so naturally there would not be a statement of reservation because, member for Bundaberg, we support the bill. Go figure! The poor kids of Bundaberg! Imagine having such a political member of parliament rather than actually telling them what goes on in this House.

We know and have heard many stories in this House about the effects of smoking. I was pleased to be able to talk to those Kingaroy State High year 10 kids. They got on a bus this morning at 5.30 to drive down to the parliament to see question time and to go through the educational process.

Government members interjected.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: It is interesting that members from Brisbane think it is funny that these schoolkids had to be on a bus at 5.30 in the morning and travel three hours to come and see parliament and they—

Government members interjected.

Mr Whiting interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Members to my right, order!

Mr Mander interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Everton, order!

Honourable members interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Members, order!

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: It clearly shows a government that has lost its way and is out of touch with what regional school kids face. I can tell the member for Bancroft that they were on the bus for three full hours. We listen to the new health minister stand in this House and screech about the fact that apparently the health system has been fixed.