



Speech By  
**Hon. Grace Grace**


**MEMBER FOR MCCONNEL**

---

Record of Proceedings, 28 November 2023

**MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST**

**Liberal National Party, Performance**

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (2.11 pm): The more things change, the more they stay the same. I could not say it any better with regard—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Order! Members to my left, that was unacceptable. The minister had barely uttered a word and your response was childish and ridiculous. I will be warning people from here on in.

**Ms GRACE:** That is all you can expect. The more things change, they more they stay the same from those opposite.

**Mr Krause** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Scenic Rim, you are warned.

**Ms GRACE:** They have no respect for this place and no respect for anyone at all. They get up and make grave accusations and brave statements, but they cannot deliver on any of them. Do members know who has called them out more than anyone? It is the ex-LNP member for Currumbin. She said that the LNP have sat on the opposition benches—

**Mr Purdie** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Member for Ninderry, you can leave the chamber for one hour. You are under a warning.

*Whereupon the honourable member for Ninderry withdrew from the chamber at 2.12 pm.*

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Members, I have two sheets here. I am sure they will print me another one. I can keep filling it with the names of people I am warning and I can keep asking people to leave. The level of interjection is unacceptable.

**Ms GRACE:** They think they are going to shout and scream their way into government. That is how arrogant they are over there.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I do not need your commentary on my rulings.

**Ms GRACE:** That is how arrogant they are over there. They think badgering the speakers on this side of the House—all of them ganging up—is going to spread the word outside in election land and somehow they are just going to walk into government. Let me say: for all but three years of the past two decades they have presented as a whingeing, weary, policy-vacant bunch of ageing, grumpy individuals. That is exactly what we just heard—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Ms GRACE:** They are not my words; they are Jann Stuckey's words. That is what we got from the Leader of the Opposition in his latest speech. We do not hear any solutions; all we hear is whingeing and whining from the policy-vacant bunch of members sitting opposite. All of a sudden, we are supposed to accept that they have the answers to everything.

The issues they are raising are legitimate issues that we are well aware of on this side of the House—issues that we are definitely targeting and delivering on—but they are not unique to Queensland. Queensland is not the only state that has had 13 increases in interest rates. Queensland is not the only state where there are housing issues. I will tell members why we have housing issues: for 10 years the Morrison LNP government invested not one additional cent. In fact, they withdrew money from the First Nations housing policy. Can you believe it? Then they get up here, after 10 years of neglect, and place responsibility in the hands of the Queensland Labor government—when every other state is feeling exactly the same pressure.

Cost of living is not an issue only in Queensland; it is all over the country, including in states that have had Liberal governments for many years such as New South Wales. Those opposite should talk to their counterparts there. I never once heard the issue being raised by those opposite, yet suddenly they have had an epiphany. The Leader of the Opposition has all the answers! He is going to have a focused and empowered Public Service. Those words are hollow and insincere. The Leader of the Opposition never met a public servant he did not want to sack. Now we are supposed to believe that somehow they are going to employ all the health workers that Queensland needs. I was working at the Queensland Nurses and Midwives' Union when he started by sacking nurses in Townsville, in his own electorate. No wonder he had to go down to Broadwater to escape! This is the legacy those opposite leave.

We are supposed to believe that suddenly they have a caring nature towards workers in this state. They tore away every single industrial protection you could imagine. Even injured workers were denied the common law rights that had existed in the state for at least a century. Somehow now they sincerely understand the worth of workers in the state. Nobody will be convinced by that. We will be convincing them. Let me tell you what Queenslanders appreciate. They appreciate a strong economy, because we kept them safe. They appreciate having a job and the lowest unemployment rate. If there is one party in this state that will continue to provide for Queensland, it is the Palaszczuk Labor government.