




Speech By
Julianne Gilbert

MEMBER FOR MACKAY

Record of Proceedings, 11 October 2023

MOTION

Liberal National Party, Health

 **Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (2.23 pm): I call on the member for Mudgeeraba to apologise to our regional health workers. They are not duds. Every health worker gets up every day and does their very best to care for Queenslanders. Our doctors, our nurses and our allied health workers are caring for Queenslanders, and I thank them. My community in Mackay can remember when the member for Mudgeeraba came to Mackay on the very same day that the Minister for Health was meeting with women in Mackay to support them and to listen to their stories. What did the member for Mudgeeraba do? She held a forum along with the member for Whitsunday and asked for them to come along to the forum. A nurse who was new to Mackay turned up to see what was happening with women's issues. She got thrown out. I will tell members why she was thrown out: she did not have a bit of juicy gossip for the muckrakers. Because she did not have a complaint—she went there to find out what was happening with women's issues in Mackay—the muckrakers threw her out.

Ms Bates interjected.

Mrs GILBERT: This was a registered nurse who wanted to know what was going on. She went there in good faith and old muckraker just tossed her out. The health workers in Mackay talk to me all the time about the way that you come into their town and you throw mud at them all the time.

Mr SPEAKER: Direct your comments through the chair please, member. Pause the clock. Member for Mudgeeraba, I understand there is provocation. You have already had an opportunity to speak. It is now the member for Mackay's turn to speak.

Mrs GILBERT: They know that every time the member for Mudgeeraba gets up here and says that she has been to a hospital and she has a story, she goes in, she visits the workers and they talk to her about all sorts of different things and then she uses that against them. They are tired of the member for Mudgeeraba twisting their stories and making them look like they are not doing their jobs. They are sick and tired of it. The thing they fear the most is when the member for Mudgeeraba turns up, because they know that she is going to slam them in the news. That is just absolutely outrageous. They know that she is just there to be a troublemaker. What did she do when those opposite were in government? They sacked 32 health workers across the Mackay HHS. One might think that is not too many, but for a small HHS to lose 12 nurses is devastating. The member for Mudgeeraba has a lot to be sorry for and she should apologise to health workers.

(Time expired)