



Speech By  
**Hon. Shannon Fentiman**


**MEMBER FOR WATERFORD**

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Record of Proceedings, 30 November 2023

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**Comments by the Member for Mudgeeraba**

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance Services and Minister for Women) (11.17 am): I rise to make a ministerial statement. I have an update for the House about the Gold Coast University Hospital allegations that were raised by the member for Mudgeeraba in the House earlier this week, and reported by the *Gold Coast Bulletin*, that staff were apparently so busy they were passing urine bottles in full view of the triage area. I have been busting today to give this update to the member for Mudgeeraba, and I think she will probably be a little peed off about what I have to say, because I can confirm—

**Mr SPEAKER:** I think there is an inference in terms of the context of that. I would ask you to withdraw that.

**Ms FENTIMAN:** I withdraw. Perhaps the member for Mudgeeraba should learn to bottle it up and maybe check her facts before coming into parliament. I can confirm that the HHS has now reviewed CCTV footage of the entire hospital on Monday afternoon and has not found one shred of evidence—

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Please resume your seat, Minister. Member for Mudgeeraba, do you have a point of order?

**Ms BATES:** No, Mr Speaker, I rise on a matter of privilege suddenly arising. Paramedics have already sent me that photo. It is the wrong area, you fool! It is not Berocca—

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member, you will resume your seat!

**Ms Bates:** It is not a bottle of Berocca.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The member will resume her seat!

**Ms Bates:** It is not a bottle of Berocca. You are just after whistleblowers!

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member, that was completely unparliamentary. I will ask you to withdraw elements of your statement that were certainly unparliamentary, particularly the offensive term used aimed at another member directly.

**Ms BATES:** I withdraw.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Based on that—

**Ms McMillan** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Mansfield, you are warned under the standing orders. Member for Mudgeeraba, for that disorderly conduct I will ask you to withdraw for the remainder of the day under standing order 252. I ask that you do that now.

*Whereupon the honourable member for Mudgeeraba withdrew from the chamber at 11.19 am.*

**Mr SPEAKER:** Do you have anything further to add, Minister?

**Ms FENTIMAN:** As I was saying, I can confirm that the HHS have reviewed CCTV footage and found no evidence of anyone passing urine in the hallways. What they have found evidence of is that ED staff regularly drink electrolyte drinks whilst they are on shift and there are bottles of Berocca that are kept on the ED counter. In fact, here is a photo of one taken just this morning. I table that photo.

*Tabled paper:* Photograph depicting a bottle of liquid [2055](#).

That is a regular occurrence at the ED. I think the member for Mudgeeraba might be relieved to hear that this is simply a matter of staff doing what they must on a very busy afternoon to help Queenslanders on the Gold Coast.

Again, can I thank Dr David Green and the team at the Gold Coast emergency hospital. Despite the huge amount of pressure they faced, the average patient-off-stretcher time was 28 minutes and they never reached capacity. I have not heard the opposition thank the staff at the busiest ED for the work they have done. The chief executive of the Gold Coast University Hospital will of course be in contact with the *Gold Coast Bulletin* to retract those comments, and I will be writing to you, Mr Speaker, about the member for Mudgeeraba misleading this place once again. Can I say a merry Christmas to the member for Mudgeeraba. That makes 23 times she has been excluded from this place in 2023.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Thank you, Minister, for your statement.

**Ms FENTIMAN:** Sorry, Mr Speaker. It is 23 times this term, but it is 23 by 2023.