




Speech By
Deb Frecklington

MEMBER FOR NANANGO

Record of Proceedings, 11 September 2024

MOTION

General Practitioners

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (5.07 pm): I move—

This House calls on the Labor government to revoke the Queensland Revenue Office rulings (PTAQ000.6.1 to PTAQ000.6.3) (which is currently under an amnesty due to end in July 2025) which will cost Queenslanders more to see a doctor in the middle of a health crisis and cost-of-living crisis.

I have not met a Queenslander who is not affected by the cost-of-living crisis in Queensland. I rarely meet a Queenslander who has not been impacted or had a family member or friend impacted by the health crisis here in Queensland. Why do we have Labor's health crisis and Labor's cost-of-living crisis here in Queensland? It is because we have an incompetent government which has been sitting on the government benches for a decade. I would ask, like the Leader of the Opposition always asks: are you better or worse off after a decade of Labor? I know the answer to that. We are worse off. We are much worse off.

All this motion is doing is calling for common sense, which is a bit of a stretch when it comes to the Treasurer, Cameron Dick. All we are asking is for the Premier, the Treasurer and their bunch of merry ministers to rule out the patients tax. That is all we want. This is a tax upon health care in Queensland, and nowhere is more impacted than rural and regional Queensland. Make no mistake: people are lining up in hospitals because there are GP clinics closing by the dozen each and every month, and the reason they are doing that is the uncertainty of this Miles government. They are completely hopeless when it comes to health. We know the health system is in crisis thanks to Labor. We know we have a cost-of-living crisis thanks to Labor.

This is the Treasurer of Queensland who at the last election actually said 26 times—not once, not twice; I cannot count to 26 because, seriously, we do not have enough time—that there will be no new taxes under the Palaszczuk government. How did that work out? He is the Treasurer who broke it not once, not twice, not three times, not four times, not five times, not six times but seven times. This is the Treasurer who broke that commitment seven times. How can the people of Queensland trust that mob over there? They certainly cannot.

Now we have a Premier who put this Treasurer in as his Deputy Premier. What a joke! Seriously! I feel like I want to quote the health minister: 'Who else would you put in?' I do not know, health minister, but maybe it was you who wanted the job. Maybe it was you; I am not sure. He said it 26 times. We are saying the government have broken the tax promises seven times. How about we just scrap the patient tax?

Mr Dick interjected.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: The record will stand, Treasurer—26 times!

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I understand that the Speaker of the House made a ruling earlier today in terms of the characterisation of this matter in respect of it being described as a revenue determination. The member for Nanango has—

Opposition members interjected.

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Order!

Mr de BRENNI: The member for Nanango seems to have failed to recognise the Speaker's determination, and I ask you to provide her guidance.

Opposition members interjected.

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER: Resume your seat, member for Nanango. Members, if there is any more chatter or interjections while I am trying to hear a point of order, you will be warned. I will take some advice. I want clarity, Leader of the House: what is your actual point of order?

Opposition members interjected.

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

Mr Crandon interjected.

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Coomera, you are warned under the standing orders.

Mr de BRENNI: The member is referring to a particular characterisation of a measure which is not the subject of the motion that is before the House. I understand the motion has been amended to talk about a revenue determination. We are happy to hear—

Mr Minnikin interjected.

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Chatsworth, you are warned under the standing orders. Does anybody else want a warning? I suggest you maintain your silence while I deal with this. Leader of the House?

Mr de BRENNI:—and simply to ensure her contributions are relevant to the motion.

MR POWELL: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The concerns raised by the Speaker in proposing and putting forward the amended motion were to do with the wording of the motion. There is a longstanding tradition in this House, emphasised by the current Speaker, that, when it comes to the debate, the content of the debate can be quite wideranging as to interpretations of that. As to what the Leader of the House is alluding to, we know that the media—and we can provide reports—have referred to the matter that is in this motion as a patient tax.

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. I will take some advice. The point of order is in relation to relevance. Member for Nanango, I would ask you to remain relevant to the motion. However, although I do not have the capacity to consult with the Speaker at this particular point, I do note that the Speaker has made some adjustments to the motion, specifically in relation to the wording, so I would urge some caution in relation to those matters. I do not know the background of that, but I would be concerned about the potential of misleading the House in relation to that, so I would ask you to continue your contribution with that in mind.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Thank you very much, Mr Deputy Speaker. I wish to quote from a letter I received on or around 9 January, as it is dated, from Cornerstone Health. With some concern it reads—

Queensland's GP payroll tax will end bulk-billing.

That is the concern of these doctors because of the Miles government tax. They go on to say—

... a patient tax that will spell an end to bulk-billing and force Queenslanders, many already struggling with runaway cost-of-living pressures, to dig deep into their pockets to cover the increased cost of visiting their GP.

Make no mistake: we have a Treasurer of Queensland who has broken the commitment of no new taxes—he said it 26 times—seven times. His record will stand. If he winds back this broken promise, it still means he broke six promises. So just give us one and let's help out the people of Queensland. Let's help out the people of Queensland who are struggling. Ambulance ramping for Queensland sits at 43 per cent—the highest rate in the nation. Why? Because the Miles government are incompetent at their job. Seriously!

Let's look at Bundaberg, who are waiting for a new hospital. What did the member for Bundaberg say? He said that he wanted to build a level 5 hospital, but then he said, 'No, no, it is five storeys.' This government is a joke. If we want to fix up the cost-of-living crisis and the health crisis, we must change the government and show these guys the door in 2024.