




Speech By
Linus Power

MEMBER FOR LOGAN

Record of Proceedings, 11 September 2024

MOTION

General Practitioners

 **Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (5.47 pm): I just want to remind the House what we are voting on in this debate—that is, the member for Nanango’s amended motion which says that the Labor government should revoke revenue rulings PTAQ000.6.1 to PTAQ000.6.3. That is the action that this House is being called on to do in this motion. I hope those opposite understand that. When these rulings were introduced, they were to provide relief so that GPs could restructure their arrangements so they would not be affected by payroll tax. That is the intent of what was put forward and the negotiations that took place in order to do that.

Let us have a look at what happened. In September—and I note that all of the quotes were from other rulings in January of that year—when this was introduced, the very thing that those opposite want to get rid of, the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners released a press release titled ‘RACGP applauds Queensland government for acting to help keep essential GP care affordable’. It said that. It went on to say that it applauds the Queensland government’s decision on this ruling—the ruling that those opposite want to eradicate. The press release states—

RACGP Queensland Chair Dr Bruce Willett thanked the Queensland Government for listening to GPs.

That was in September. He continued—

I want to thank our government for listening to the RACGP, our member GPs and practice owners ...

This is what the RACGP said about this tax ruling in September 2023. Dr Willett further stated—

... and I am so pleased that the Queensland Government sat down with us, listened, and worked with us to find a permanent solution.

I heard an interjection that this is an amnesty to allow them to restructure their affairs. What was the RACGP’s opinion on this in July 2024? I take members to the statement of the RACGP on 24 July 2024 which states—

In light of recent changes to state and territory payroll tax interpretations—

they make clear that these are interpretations, not any new tax, and to say otherwise is misleading this House—

the RACGP is seeking:

...

... cross-jurisdictional alignment and harmonisation with the Queensland Government Public Ruling PTAQ000.6.3 ...

The very thing that this motion calls to eradicate, the RACGP has called to be harmonised. I am willing to give a copy to any member who seeks to mislead the House.

It is embarrassing that the LNP is calling for the revocation of a tax that the RACGP supports. They support it so much that they want to see it introduced in every state in the country. They want to see it harmonised across the nation. The LNP has scored the worst own goal. It is like looking at footballers on YouTube performing own goals. They never live it down. It is an embarrassment that the LNP is calling for a ruling that would actually hurt GPs by creating more taxation for GPs. You have no credibility on tax, no credibility on health.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Direct your comments through the chair.

Mr POWER: You should be ashamed of this. If you vote for it, it will hang around your heads.

(Time expired)