




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR CLAYFIELD

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MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Miles Labor Government, Performance

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (2.27 pm): I have been sitting here listening to two government members and not once have they spoken about government policy. Not once have they spoken about doing something to protect and preserve the life of Queenslanders, to look after victims, to lower the cost of living or to make health care and housing more affordable. We have just had the housing minister, who, by all accounts, enjoys reclining and enjoying life in Yeronga as much as she does in Gaven, tell us a story in relation to where the Leader of the Opposition lives. She is more interested in where the Leader of the Opposition lives than she is in providing housing for those people who are living in tents under the bridge just down the road. That is the focus of the member for Gaven.

She says that the Leader of the Opposition is refusing to answer questions of the media. I just spent 40 minutes with the Leader of the Opposition downstairs talking about Labor's failures with the DNA testing laboratory—10 minutes of which he answered every question the media put to him about it.

We have seen this story before. We saw this in 2011-12. We saw this story writ large in the dying days of the decrepit and discredited Bligh Labor government, and it is straight out of the same playbook. In fact, it is written by the same playwright. We know that they are shipping them up from Canberra and New South Wales to defend themselves by digging dirt but that will not save them. That will not save them because Queenslanders are sick and tired of a Labor government that has lost the plot when it comes to acting for and respecting Queenslanders. This is no more evident than the debacle that is the DNA testing laboratory, which has a backlog of 40,000 serious offences and only two per cent of them have been tested in the last two years.

Over 1,000 rape test kits are languishing and 40 per cent of them have been sitting there for more than 12 months. Victims, mainly women—and mainly young women, member for Gaven—are not getting justice because those rape test kits are not being tested and results are not being provided in the timeframes necessary.

All we have from this government is a discredited plan that is not delivering what victims want and what experts say should occur. We have a government that is ignoring the one person who actually called it out—and called it out not once, not twice, but three times. This is a government that did not even pick up the phone to say, 'Thank you for your application, but we have selected someone else.' They sent a form letter back to Dr Kirsty Wright saying, 'Thanks, but no thanks.'

This is a government that is against Dr Wright—a Queensland expert who has worked in the armed forces, who worked internationally identifying bodies and who brought Daniel Morcombe's killer to justice. They ignore her. That is why today the LNP was pleased to announce that, if we are successful in October, we will appoint Dr Kirsty Wright as a special agent of government to go into FSQ

and find out what is going wrong. At the moment we are getting nothing. At estimates we found out that the government and the lab do not know how long it will take to test the backlog. They can give us no timeframes.

They have not yet implemented some of the critical recommendations of the Sofronoff report which exposed one of the worst failures in Queensland's criminal justice administration history and found that people had lied on certificates they had given to the courts in the criminal trials of the most serious criminals. Potentially, murderers, rapists and other people committing sexual assaults are now walking free because this government does not care.

They have no plan that they are prepared to share with the people of Queensland to give them confidence in the testing at FSQ. They have no confidence in the ability of the courts, because of that failure, to deliver justice in Queensland. The only way we will fix the DNA lab, get Forensic Science Queensland operating as it should and delivering world-class services and get rid of the chaos and crisis of the Labor government is to change the way you vote in October 2024. Vote for the LNP and show Labor the door in 2024.