



Speech By
Joseph Kelly

MEMBER FOR GREENSLOPES

Record of Proceedings, 18 September 2025

HEALTH LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 2)

Second Reading

 **Mr J KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (12.55 pm): This is an important bill. There are several important provisions in it although, I note from the previous member's speech, they were so important that the committee did not review them other than through the papers. If I get my 10 minutes in today, I will have spent 10 minutes longer talking about this bill in here than I spent talking about it elsewhere.

The Pharmacy Business Ownership Act 2024 is being amended. There is an amendment to the Notifiable Dust Lung Disease Register. That amendment is very important. I was on the black lung committee. There are some important changes around the detection and monitoring of mosquitoes for the Japanese encephalitis virus.

These are all important changes, but we really have to question why the government has brought this bill in in this way. This is a government that says that it does what it says, and here we have an example of it doing not very much. I table a document that shows what the government does intend to do today.

Tabled paper: Media article, dated 16 September 2025, titled 'Queensland government to ban pill testing in move criticised by health advocates' [1279](#).

One of the things this government likes to talk about is transparency and accountability. That is what I want to talk about today. If they are going to bring in an amendment that will potentially have fatal impacts on people, would they not want that debated in a committee—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kempton): Member for Greenslopes—

Mr J KELLY: Would they not want that debated—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Greenslopes, please take your seat.

Mr NICHOLLS: I rise to a point of order, Mr Deputy Speaker, on relevance in terms of the member's comment, and I suspect the document that has been tabled may infringe on the relevance matter.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: It may well do. Member, you have heard the point of order. There have been a number of complaints today in relation to relevance. I would ask you to keep your dissertation to the long title of the bill.

Mr J KELLY: We have a bill before us that deals with pharmacy business ownership, the Notifiable Dust Lung Disease Register, the detection and monitoring of mosquitoes for the Japanese encephalitis virus, appointing an acting mental health commissioner and amendments to the Radiation Safety Act.

As the minister said yesterday, the government has always had a position on pill testing. They were intending to bring in legislation around pill testing. They would have sent that to a committee of this parliament for full transparency and accountable.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member, take your seat.

Mr J KELLY: Instead they have chosen not to do that.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member!

Mr NICHOLLS: I rise to a point of order, Mr Deputy Speaker, on relevance. These are not matters before the House. I would also submit that the member for Greenslopes is deliberately defying your direction, in contravention of the authority of the chair.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Greenslopes, you are not being relevant and I would ask you to remain relevant. If you stray again, I will warn you.

Mr J KELLY: This is a government that says that it wants to put nurses and doctors back in charge, and we have an example in this bill where it is doing some things around that, but when it comes to pill testing and it gets information or evidence that it does not like—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member—

Mr J KELLY: They simply do not want doctors and nurses in charge.

Mr NICHOLLS: I rise to a point of order, Mr Deputy Speaker.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member, when I call you, I will have you cease talking and take your seat. I do not need to take a point of order. Explain to me how pill testing is relevant to this legislation.

Mr J KELLY: As is contained in the document that I have tabled in this House, it is clear the government intends to bring these amendments in. If it were serious about transparency and accountability, we would have the opportunity to debate these things—

Mr NICHOLLS: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member!

Mr J KELLY: We could have put them through a committee—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member, I am asking you to explain to me how pill testing is relevant to the long title of the bill before the House.

Mr J KELLY: As I said, I tabled a document which clearly shows the government intends to amend this bill and I am seeking an opportunity to speak to that—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member, that is simply not an explanation. It is not relevant and I would ask you to remain relevant to the long title of the bill. I have warned you.

Mr J KELLY: Something else this government has said is that it wants to keep Queenslanders safe, and again it has signalled it is bringing in an amendment today which, if passed, will not keep Queenslanders safe.

Mr NICHOLLS: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member, take your seat, please. I will get some advice. Member, you have been warned. If you proceed to stray from the bill I will ask you to leave the chamber. You have one minute left.

Mr J KELLY: With respect, Deputy Speaker, I have eight minutes left, but I do intend to speak about these matters that are of deep importance to my community. A government that says it is committed to transparency and accountability took the time to put these matters through the chamber, but simply—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member, could you adjourn the debate, please.

Debate, on motion of Mr J Kelly, adjourned.