



Speech By
Margaret Nightingale

MEMBER FOR INALA

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PRIVATE MEMBER STATEMENT

Skin Cancer Prevention

 **Mrs NIGHTINGALE** (Inala—ALP) (2.18 pm): I rise today concerned and, quite frankly, flabbergasted by this LNP government's decision to axe Queensland's skin cancer prevention program. We live under the harshest sun in the world. Queensland is not just the Sunshine State; we are the skin cancer capital of the world. I know the danger personally. I have had skin cancer surgery. Thankfully, it was caught early because education and regular checks taught me to take it seriously. However, not everyone gets that chance. Every year around 4,000 Queenslanders are diagnosed with melanoma. Hundreds die. I know this has touched many in my electorate. There are too many families who have lost a parent, a friend or a young adult child to this preventable disease. That is why cutting this program is reckless and wrong. Queensland should be leading the nation, if not the world, on prevention, not turning its back on it.

Queensland's prevention program worked. It saved lives. It helped people recognise the warning signs, get checked early and stay safe in the sun. Many of us remember Sid the Seagull and the Slip, Slop, Slap message that changed how we raised our kids. We learned how to protect them, and I want the same protection for the next generation. Every dollar spent on prevention saves many more in hospital care, surgery and oncology. This decision will not save money; it will cost lives in the long run. Prevention is about keeping parents around to see their children grow up and keeping Queenslanders healthy, productive and alive. I call on the Minister for Health to immediately reinstate this program.

Heading into this election, the Premier promised to put experts back in charge. He is not listening to the Cancer Council Queensland, to dermatologists or to those who have been fighting this battle for decades. He is more interested in changing colours on Queensland branding than warning about the changing colours of melanoma.

Slip, Slop, Slap, Seek and Slide means something different to this shady government. They have slipped back to the seventies before the time of Sid the Seagull. They have made sloppy decisions that put lives at risk. They have delivered a slap in the face to Queenslanders. They are seeking to save money at the expense of lives. They will slide straight back into opposition if they keep this up. Queenslanders deserve protection from the sun, not to be burnt by this government's reckless cuts.