



Speech By

Mark Boothman

MEMBER FOR THEODORE

Record of Proceedings, 18 September 2025

HEALTH LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 2)

Second Reading

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Theodore—LNP) (6.06 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the Health Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2025. It is certainly a comprehensive omnibus bill that addresses many critical aspects of our health legislation. This bill amends several key acts including the Pharmacy Business Ownership Act, the Public Health Act, the Queensland Mental Health Commission Act and the Radiation Safety Act. It also includes amendments to the Public Health Regulation.

The introduction of this bill reflects the Crisafulli government's commitment to strengthen the performance and clarity of our health legislation in four key areas: pharmacy business ownership regulation, reporting of occupational respiratory disease detection, management of serious public health risk and clarity of radiation safety application processes. These are all obviously very important areas. The Health, Environment and Innovation Committee has certainly done a fantastic job. They have also recommended that this bill be passed.

First, let's talk about our local pharmacies and how this will affect them. Before I mention that, I want to give a big shout-out to my local pharmacies for the massive amount of work they do for our area when it comes to health care and providing easy access to advice for local residents and also for participating in our local community. As an example, I want to say thank you to Chempro at Oxenford for donating a heap of sunscreen to one of my local schools. I thank them for that very kind donation.

This bill makes some amendments to the Pharmacy Business Ownership Act. It talks about the primary interests of the pharmacies and how they are controlled by corporations. However, in the implementation of the act several issues were identified that required changes. The amendments in the bill clarify issues in respect of seeking to extend the review of a decision by the Queensland Pharmacy Business Ownership Council. Additionally, the bill ensures that stakeholders or corporate pharmacy owners can only hold their share of trusts for practising pharmacists or their close relatives, thereby reinforcing the integrity of pharmacy ownership. To promote the transparency and procedures of fairness for licensed applicants, the bill also streamlines the processes associated with pharmacy business licensing. It will support the effective operation of Queensland pharmacy business ownership and facilitate the transfer of regulatory responsibility for pharmacy ownership from Queensland Health to the council.

Another very important topic that is dear to my heart is respiratory diseases. There are many stone businesses in the Oxenford area—stonecutters—and I always remember talking to a couple of the workers about their harrowing experiences. This bill will make some crucial changes to the Public Health Act 2005 regarding the notification of occupational respiratory diseases. The establishment of a National Occupational Respiratory Disease Registry allows a centralised approach to managing reporting of preventable occupational respiratory diseases such as cancer and asbestosis. Transferring the notification of the diagnosis of these diseases from the existing Queensland register to a national

register will enable a nationally consistent reporting process and requirements. This will enhance the ability to understand and prevent these debilitating diseases, ensuring Queenslanders receive the best health outcomes possible.

Japanese encephalitis virus is another important area that this bill covers. This is a serious public health risk. The amendments clarify that authorised officers can leave the necessary equipment and materials for monitoring designated pests such as mosquitoes, the primary carriers, which is crucial in detecting and managing the risk of JEV. The current legislation has been ambiguous regarding the ability to leave equipment for reasonable periods. This bill provides the necessary clarification to ensure that public health units and local councils can effectively respond to risks posed by this terrible virus.

The bill also deals with the Radiation Safety Act 1999 and makes technical amendments to that act. The bill clarifies that any person, not just a licensee, can apply to Queensland Health for approval to dispose of radioactive material. This amendment will ensure that potentially hazardous materials are safely managed and disposed of, reflecting the original intent of the act.

Finally, the bill also amends the Queensland Mental Health Commission Act 2013, ensuring that a commissioner can be appointed in situations where the Mental Health Commissioner's position becomes vacant or when the commissioner is unavailable. This amendment is critically important when it comes to maintaining effective leadership and continuation of the commission. Mental health issues are becoming more and more prevalent in our society. Therefore, we need to have robust processes in place to ensure we are providing the best care for individuals who are suffering through some very dark times in their lives. This bill is a vital step forward in upgrading our legislation to meet the demands of what is required in 2025.

The Crisafulli government is getting on with the job of putting health care first and foremost for the residents of Queensland. I urge all members to support these amendments because they will have a positive impact when it comes to the health outcomes of Queenslanders.