




Speech By
Hon. Meaghan Scanlon

MEMBER FOR GAVEN

Record of Proceedings, 18 September 2025

ADJOURNMENT

Drugs, Testing

 **Hon. MAJ SCANLON** (Gaven—ALP) (9.16 pm): Didn't that debate just show the division within the LNP on pill testing. I saw the member for Bonney walk out of here with his head down feeling ashamed, and so he should.

Government members interjected.

Ms SCANLON: He is still here! He is very happy now. The member for Bonney said, 'The fact is the current messaging around illicit drugs is not working. We are seeing needless deaths of kids.' Two weeks into the job he sold young Queenslanders out. He said at schoolies, 'Our position is we don't support it and there's no safe way to take drugs.' He embraced the very same failed approach, just like he does on almost every other issue—abortion reform, gay conversion therapy. When there is anything progressive in this state, the member for Bonney says, 'I'm on the side of progressive young Queenslanders,' but when he comes into this House he has to bow to the hard right of his party who get their way every day of the week.

The Liberal Party claim that they are the 'liberal' party. I do not know if they have looked up the definition of 'liberal'. They claim to be these free marketeers, except when philanthropic donors want to contribute to a private drug diversion clinic that the government decided they were not going to have. A private clinic was going to continue providing services, but they said, 'We don't agree with that.'

There are numerous services on the record that support drug testing—the AMA; the Pharmaceutical Society; the RACGP, which says it is sensible and evidence-based; the Queensland Police Service and the Mental Health Commissioner—but those opposite are ignoring the doctors whom they said they were going to listen to. The hypocrisy is that they said they were going to be open and transparent, yet we have not seen the \$453,000 independent University of Queensland evaluation on pill testing that we have called for. Five minutes ago, we just had to debate—

Mr Molhoek interjected.

Ms SCANLON: I take the member for Southport's interjection. Clearly you read it, but you still voted against the very reform that said it was a good thing to protect young Queenslanders. Two in three people who used CheQpoint—some of them on the Gold Coast, member for Southport—went on to adopt safer measures and 16 per cent threw away their drugs. Those opposite are saying, 'We're going to ignore all of those experts. We're going to ignore measures that actually keep kids safe.' Instead, they are going to put their heads in the sand and be politicians who pretend that no-one is taking drugs. They are going to keep the old school messages and pretend that, somehow, that will change the circumstances.