



Speech By

Peter Russo

MEMBER FOR TOOHEY

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HEALTH LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 2)

Second Reading

 **Mr RUSSO** (Toohey—ALP) (5.09 pm): I rise to speak on the Health Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2025. This bill, as we have heard from many speakers, is an important step in strengthening Queensland's health regulatory framework. It contains a suite of targeted but significant reforms that aim to improve public safety, modernise health regulation and ensure our laws operate as intended.

The objectives of the bill are fivefold: to clarify operational requirements for the regulation of pharmacy business ownership in Queensland, ensuring the new framework under the Pharmacy Business Ownership Act 2024 functions effectively once fully commenced; to support the transition of Queensland's Notifiable Dust Lung Disease Register to the National Occupational Respiratory Disease Registry, aligning our state systems with national arrangements; to enable the placement of equipment for mosquito surveillance, allowing authorised officers to leave traps in place to better detect Japanese encephalitis virus; to clarify the Minister for Health's power to appoint an acting mental health commissioner where the commissioner's term has ended, ensuring continuity of leadership; and to confirm that any person may apply for approval to dispose of radioactive material, removing unnecessary ambiguity in the Radiation Safety Act.

Last year, this parliament passed the Pharmacy Business Ownership Act 2024. That act replaced an outdated framework that had been in place since 2001 and established a contemporary system designed to promote professional, safe and competent pharmacy services while maintaining public confidence in the pharmacy sector. There are 1,200 community pharmacies across Queensland, employing over 7,000 registered pharmacists and countless support staff. These pharmacies are often the first point of contact for health care, particularly in regional and rural areas.

While I am talking about community pharmacies, I would like to table a news article from the *Courier-Mail* titled 'State government to introduce laws making pill testing illegal'.

Dr ROWAN: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order in relation to relevance and the long title of the bill. We have had a number of members attempt to undertake the same thing. There have been previous rulings by Deputy Speakers. I ask you to consider that matter not only in relation to the contribution by the member for Toohey but also in light of the other rulings.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Lister): I can see the Deputy Clerk would like to speak with me. I will take some advice. Member for Toohey, the document that you wish to table I understand pertains to a matter which a succession of occupants of this chair have ruled as being irrelevant to this debate. The advice I have is that it would be inappropriate for you to table a document in the course of the debate that is not relevant to this particular bill. I ask you to come back to being relevant and continue your contribution.

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I seek your clarification in respect of the tabling of the document by the member for Toohey. I understand that you have indicated that it would be out of order. I am seeking to understand on what basis the member for Toohey is unable to table that document. That would assist the House.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will confirm the advice. I thank the House for its patience. Manager of Opposition Business, there are two points to make. It is not possible to make a matter relevant by tabling a document about that matter when that would be irrelevant to the debate that is going on at the moment. I take that to be relevance to the long title of the bill that we are considering. Secondly, it is not appropriate to table a document which is irrelevant to the matter that is being debated at the moment. I am ruling that that document not be tabled. I am also ruling that the member for Toohey needs to be relevant to the long title of the bill being discussed.

Mr RUSSO: In light of your ruling, I will conclude my remarks in relation to the bill.