




Speech By  
**Rebecca Young**

**MEMBER FOR REDLANDS**

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Record of Proceedings, 12 June 2025

**HEALTH LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Mrs YOUNG** (Redlands—LNP) (4.41 pm): I rise in strong support of the Health Legislation Amendment Bill 2025. This legislation delivers on the Crisafulli LNP government's commitment to restore trust, strengthen performance and bring real change to Queensland's health system. As the member for Redlands, I know how vital a strong and responsive health system is to our community. One of our largest local employers is the health sector, which is filled with dedicated nurses, doctors and allied health workers and support staff who care for us at our most vulnerable. These are the people delivering babies, treating emergencies, supporting mental health and walking families through chronic illness and rehabilitation. They do not just know the system; they live it every single day. I am proud to say that my own aunty worked as a nurse at the Redlands Hospital for more than 25 years. I watched her navigate shiftwork, change and constant pressure, always putting patients first. That personal connection shapes my deep respect for those who work on the front line. This bill recognises that value by giving those workers a seat at the table.

Under the amendments to the Hospital and Health Boards Act, every hospital and health board in Queensland will include at least one frontline clinician, someone actively working in direct patient care. These are not token appointments. Clinicians must have at least two years experience and continue working a minimum of eight hours a week in public health settings. They will bring real insight into how policy impacts practice, ensuring boards are guided not just by KPIs or reports but by practical, patient centred knowledge.

In the Redlands I have heard directly from our hardworking health professionals about the issues they face: workforce shortages, rising demand and the need for better local decision-making. They do not want bureaucratic solutions imposed on them from above; they want smart, workable change that reflects their realities. This bill delivers that. The reform takes effect from April 2026, giving time to recruit the right people who will bring genuine frontline experience into Queensland Health's governance.

Some may raise questions about conflicts of interest, but let us be clear: even under the former Labor government, appointed board members currently serve as practising clinicians. The Integrity Commissioner has confirmed that existing safeguards are sufficient, and under the bill clinicians will be excluded from serving as chair or deputy chair to further protect good governance.

The Crisafulli government is not just promising change; we are delivering it. This bill goes beyond governance. It also tackles one of the fastest growing public health threats: illegal vapes and illicit tobacco. Under the former Labor government enforcement was weak. Vape stores operated openly and vaping among Queensland students tripled between 2017 and 2023. That is not just a concern; it is a crisis. This bill strengthens enforcement under the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Act. It allows for the immediate forfeiture of seized goods, cutting down storage risks and delays. It also introduces court-ordered cost recovery, meaning offenders will foot the bill for seizures, investigations and prosecutions.

The results are already clear. One week after we introduced the nation's toughest fines, \$5 million in penalties were issued. That is over 20 times more than the weekly average under Labor. In March, Operation Appaloosa saw Queensland Health lead Australia's largest seizure of illicit tobacco—76,000 vapes, 19 million cigarettes and 3.6 tonnes of tobacco—off the streets and out of the hands of our children. As a parent, I take great comfort in knowing this.

This bill reflects the values of Redlanders. We care for one another. We believe in empowering those who serve on the front line, and we will not stand by while public health is undermined. To our local nurses, doctors and healthcare workers: this bill backs you. The LNP Crisafulli government backs you, and I will keep fighting to ensure your voice is heard and respected because you are essential to building a healthier Redlands and Queensland.