



Speech By  
**Rob Molhoek**


**MEMBER FOR SOUTHPORT**

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Record of Proceedings, 18 September 2025

## **HEALTH LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 2)**

### **Second Reading**

 **Mr MOLHOEK** (Southport—LNP) (12.46 pm): I rise today to support the Health Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2025. In rising to speak, I want to acknowledge the role that the committee and the secretariat played in reviewing the legislation.

**Mr J Kelly:** We didn't have any hearings.

**Mr MOLHOEK:** I take that interjection from the member for Greenslopes. He is correct: we did not conduct any hearings, but we did have the opportunity to review the legislation. We decided that we would not go to a public hearing, as there were only five submitters—one from each of the parties represented within the amendments to the legislation, and, importantly, each of those submitters supported the objectives of the bill and the proposed amendments required to achieve those objectives.

I note also that, in spite of the protestations from the member for Miller, there was no statement of reservation in respect of this bill. I find it somewhat disingenuous that concerns are being raised today about the nature of the bill and that it has been suggested the bill is somewhat frivolous when no reservations were expressed during the committee process.

Through this bill the Crisafulli government is strengthening the performance and clarity of our health legislation in five key areas: pharmacy business ownership, regulation reporting of occupational respiratory diseases, detection and management of the Japanese encephalitis virus, radiation safety application processes, and the ability of the minister to appoint an acting mental health commissioner. Importantly, the bill clarifies operational requirements relating to the regulation of pharmacy business ownership in Queensland.

Community pharmacists provide world-class primary health care and play a vital role in the health of Queenslanders. That is why the Crisafulli government has expanded their scope of practice to allow them to treat and prescribe medications for acute health conditions. To help more community pharmacists become authorised to treat those conditions, our government has extended training subsidies to support up to 230 more pharmacists with their training.

Speaking of community pharmacists, I would like to give a shout-out to my local pharmacists: Woosub Song and Brad Veric from Ashmore Plaza Chempro, a pharmacy that I regularly visit; and Jason Keily from Greg Keily Chemist in Southport, one of the oldest pharmacies on the Gold Coast. Not only has my family relied on that chemist for the past few decades; my parents and siblings have relied on it since as far back as the 1970s. I note the criticism from the member for Miller, but I would say this: sometimes parliament has to do the knitting and sometimes attention to detail matters.

Let us have a look at Labor's track record through the decade of decline that we have brought to an end with the change of government. The voters of Queensland changed the government. It would be fair to say that the previous government has not always paid attention to the detail. Sometimes there will be legislation that comes to this House that may seem a bit bland or a little dry. Nonetheless, the

amendments in this bill, and many other bills before it, as minor or as technical as they may seem, are important. I think it is a shame that the member for Miller has taken this opportunity to criticise simple but important amendments.

I want to thank the health minister because last week I had the pleasure of spending most of the day with him on the Gold Coast as he opened the new H block at the Gold Coast University Hospital—70 new beds delivered for the Gold Coast. More importantly, the minister took the time to meet with representatives from the Gold Coast University Hospital. He met with representatives from a number of institutes at that hospital. He also took the time to meet with representatives from the Gold Coast City council, in particular the team that has been established to grow and develop the health and knowledge precinct on the Gold Coast.

**Ms FENTIMAN:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance under standing order 118(b). This is not relevant to the bill. Given your previous rulings to the member for Miller, I would ask that you make a ruling here.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kempton): I take your point of order. Please take your seat. Member for Southport, please keep your comments to the long title of the bill.

**Mr MOLHOEK:** Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. I appreciate your guidance. I would argue that this is relevant. The suggestion from the member for Miller was that the minister is not doing his work. I simply raise these matters to highlight—

**Mr BAILEY:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member appears to be arguing about your direction and I am seeking consistency.

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Could I have silence in the House, please. Member, I did make a ruling in relation to relevance. That was not an invitation to argue with me. I would ask you to stay within the long title of the bill.

**Mr MOLHOEK:** I will go back to the detail of the bill, as tedious as that may seem to some members of the House. The bill amends the Public Health Act 2005 in relation to the notification of diagnoses of occupational respiratory diseases. By establishing the National Occupational Respiratory Disease Registry—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Miller, you walked between the member speaking and the Deputy Speaker. I would ask you to observe the standing orders in that regard.

**Mr MOLHOEK:** The Commonwealth has assumed primary responsibility for managing the reporting of the information about preventable occupational respiratory diseases in Australia. This includes cancer and asbestosis as well as silicosis.

Furthermore, the bill seeks to make amendments with regard to the Radiation Safety Act. It makes a minor amendment to correct an inconsistency in the Radiation Safety Act 1999. Occasionally, members of the public may come across radioactive materials. For example, a person may discover old aeroplane gauges at a newly purchased rural property or a high school science department might find samples of radioactive rocks and geological items. The bill amends the act to confirm that any person can apply for and hold approval to dispose of this radioactive material. This will ensure that potentially dangerous materials are brought to the attention of the department's experts—the radiation team—and are disposed of safely.

The other technical amendment in this bill is an amendment to the Queensland Mental Health Commission Act 2013 to ensure that an acting commissioner can be appointed when the commissioner may be unavailable or their office becomes vacant. I commend the work of the Mental Health Commission. This is an important amendment. We are all very much aware of how the levels of anxiety have increased in society and the challenges that our young people and families are facing as a result of the cost-of-living crisis and new technology around phones. The work of the Mental Health Commission is important. It is important that this amendment go through to ensure the commission is always in good hands and the minister has the power to appoint someone suitable if and when required. I commend this bill to the House.